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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Austria's Waldheim in Tunis

JN0612165889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] A meeting was held today in Tunis between Palestinian President Brother Yasir 'Arafat and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who is currently on a visit to Tunisia. A number of officials from both sides attended.

Following the meeting, the Palestinian president stated that discussions dealt with developments in the Palestine question and the peace process in the Middle East. President 'Arafat praised the stands of Dr Kurt Waldheim and his support to the Palestine cause since he was the secretary general of the United Nations.

'Arafat Notes Lack of Results From U.S. Dialogue

AU0612220989 Vienna Television Service in German 2100 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Karl Nowak in Tunis on 6 December—recorded; 'Arafat statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] 'Arafat visited Waldheim in the residence in which the Austrian president lived during his official visit. In his most cordial welcome Waldheim addressed his guest as Mr President, and not as Mr Chairman, as he did in the past—a nuance in protocol which was intended to show Waldheim's appreciation of 'Arafat.

In his talk, Waldheim assured 'Arafat, who was carrying a gun as usual, that Austria will help to contribute to stimulating the negotiating process in the Middle East. Negotiations between the PLO and Israel have failed to materialize to date, because the two sides have not yet agreed on how to conduct such talks. The optimism that was initially raised by the proposal of U.S. Secretary of State Baker concerning the partners in the round of negotiations has long since vanished for the PLO. Yet the PLO has not yet established the announced exiled government which might function as the partner in negotiations. I asked 'Arafat why this has not yet happened.

['Arafat] It is being discussed, but we thought that it would only be appropriate once it became tangible for our movement to achieve real peace.

[Nowak] You entered into a partnership with the United States. What role can the United States play in the Middle East conflict in the future?

['Arafat] I am sorry to say that this dialogue between the United States and us has not yet yielded the expected results.

[Nowak] Why not?

['Arafat] You must ask the United States this question, not me.

Hawatimah Cited on Rejection of U.S. 'Conditions'

PM0712114389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: PLO Informed Washington of Rejection of Eight Conditions Included in Baker Plan"]

[Excerpts] Aden, Jerusalem, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, AP—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the U.S. position conveyed to the PLO in connection with the Baker plan included eight conditions which the PLO regarded as a complete abolition of its role. Two Israeli newspapers yesterday said that the PLO informed Washington of its acceptance of Baker's plan after it received what they termed U.S. assurances to the effect that the PLO will be able to "play a role behind the scenes" in the negotiations despite the Israeli objections. [passage omitted]

But during his visit to Aden a Palestinian official revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO rejected the U.S. conditions, which are as follows:

1—The United States requested that the PLO's role remain unseen during the whole negotiation process with Israel over the election. The PLO's job is to help to submit names of Palestinian figures to Egypt, with these names not being binding on Egypt, Israel, and the United States.

2—The Palestinian official—namely Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian leadership meeting chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis reviewed the U.S. reply, which says that Egypt should submit and announce the names of the Palestinian delegation members to Israel and the United States (second condition).

3—As for the third condition, he said that Israel has the right not to sit down with (according to Baker's phrase) anyone it does not want to sit down with among the Palestinian delegation members. And the United States cannot force Israel to do so.

4—The PLO was asked to submit a written and signed initial agreement to the amended Baker plan before discussing the Palestinian delegation.

5—After the PLO's initial agreement and the submission of names by the PLO to Egypt the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers should meet to decide the names of the Palestinian delegation members.

6—After the three ministers have agreed on the Palestinian delegation formation the PLO can announce the Palestinian delegation decided by the three ministers and expressing the Palestinian people's aspirations.

7—The Palestinian delegation comprises elements from inside [the occupied territories] in addition to two elements from outside.

8—Israeli-Palestinian talks will be confined to the elections proposed by Shamir. The Palestinians can in the ceremonial address make reference to Egypt's 10 points without provoking Israel.

The meetings headed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that Baker's plan should not be dealt with in its present form, because it is an abolition of the PLO and its role.

Nayif Hawatimah said that the Saturday before last the United States sent messages to some Arab foreign ministers, urging them to persuade the PLO to accept Baker's plan before the two giants' summit in Malta. And that the U.S. position was clear during Soviet Envoy Gennadiy Tarasov's visit to Tunis and his meeting with the Palestinian leadership, at which he informed it that the Bush-Gorbachev summit would discuss three regional issues—Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Central America.

Hawatimah quoted Tarasov as saying "the United States has informed Moscow about its messages to the PLO via Cairo, and the Soviet Union still considers the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." [passage omitted]

Reply to U.S. Plan 'Clear Expression' of PLO Policy

JN0612181089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The Palestinian reply to the proposals made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker is a clear expression of the PLO's policy. One can sum up the basis of this policy with the following:

1. In its general political actions, the PLO proceeds from the basis of the Palestinian people's national objectives which were approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC].

2. The PLO fully understands the Zionist enemy's political moves vis-a-vis the Palestinian leadership's persistent struggle to achieve our people's legitimate objectives. The substance of the Zionist moves and the U.S. political maneuvers center on one point: to infringe on the Palestinian representation. Shamir's plan aims primarily to deal a blow to the issue of the Palestinian representation by trying to set up an alternative leadership to the PLO that will accept the enemy's scheme to implement the autonomy conspiracy as a substitute to the Palestinian national goal, which the PLO is struggling to realize—the goal of self-determination. Since Baker's plan—its new and old formulas—has attempted to achieve the same goal as that of Shamir's plan, the Palestinian reply was clear and decisive: To insist that the PLO alone has the right to nominate any Palestinian delegation because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

3. Our people, and the intifadah masses in particular, realize that were it not for the valiant intifadah which has been going on for 2 years, and were it not for the pure blood and great sacrifices made by heroes of our people on the altar of martyrdom, sacrifice, and giving for the sake of Palestine's freedom, neither Shamir nor Baker would have felt the need to propose peace plans. Our people realize that, at this stage, the Zionist-U.S. plans only try to bypass the national objectives with the aim of besieging and destroying the intifadah. But the intifadah is continuing, and will continue and escalate with all strength. The Palestinian political onslaught, led by the PLO, will also continue with all its strength. From these effective and flexible positions, the Palestinian people and their leadership will continue to be able to reject all the plans standing between them and their freedom and the establishment of their independent state. The intifadah will continue; Palestinian national unity will get stronger; Palestinian political steadfastness will grow stronger and harder; and, at the end, the enemy will have no option but to yield to the Palestinian people's resolve and to submit to the Palestinian intifadah's roar, which will continue to break forth until victory.

4. Our people, represented by their national leadership, the PLO, conduct a dialogue with the Americans on the basis of a number of facts, the most important of which is that the Americans are the Zionist enemy's guardians and the guarantor of its occupation, inflexibility, and political intransigence. The second fact is that our people and their national leadership—headed by the PLO—are holding the dialogue from the position of action, steadfastness, and the intifadah, the state, and the ceaseless struggle for our legitimate objectives.

5. Facts present themselves, and, nowadays, the Palestinian facts are strongly presenting themselves. The intifadah is taking place on the soil of Palestine; and, by the enemy's confession, is beyond the enemy's power to end, or control its direction. The relationship between the intifadah and the PLO is the natural relationship between the masses and their national leader. Based on this crystal-clear reality, there is no way to stop the intifadah if our people's national objectives are not realized, and there is no way for understanding or negotiation with the Palestinian people without going back to the PLO and the PLO alone. This clear reality will continue to govern any attempt to resolve the Palestine question. The world, which is heading toward resolving regional crises, will sooner or later force Israel to deal with, and recognize this reality. Our people are patient and have the resolve to continue the struggle for another 100 years. Our national leadership has the awareness and patience, and is convinced that victory will be our people's, and that this is the logical and inevitable conclusion for their sacrifices and the blood of their martyrs.

On the eve of the anniversary of the start of the blessed intifadah, let patience be the slogan for our struggle, and let steadfastness be the characteristic of our people and their path and way of life. Let the intifadah and revolution be our course and method on the path of hoisting the flags of the state of Palestine on the walls of Jerusalem and in its streets and squares—Jerusalem, the capital of our state, which houses our sacred places, and which our hearts long for.

On the eve of the anniversary of the start of our people's blessed intifadah, let us renew the pledge to close ranks, consolidate confrontation, and face the enemy with one mind and hand and with hearts united by love of the homeland and belief in its glory and pride.

Long live Palestine, independent and free. Long live the intifadah masses. Glory and immortality to our heroic martyrs. Revolution until victory.

U.S. 'Approval' of Israeli Nabulus Action Decried

JN0612192189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Is the Nabulus operation another Israeli terrorist invasion mounted with the approval, or at least connivance, of the U.S. Administration, exactly like the bigger invasion which the Israeli terrorist leadership carried out against the Palestinians and the Lebanese in the summer of 1982? Is Nabulus another Dayr Yasin, another Sabra and Shatila, a new Nahhalin, Qibya, Kafr Qasim, or al-Sammu'? Is it one of the numerous other massacres at which President Bush and other U.S. Presidents never batted an eye?

Some 2,000 Israeli soldiers backed by artillery, tanks, machineguns, and helicopters, stormed the biggest Palestinian town, violating the sanctity of one house after another, one street after another, and one minaret after another. They played havoc in the city, killing people and violating their religious freedom. Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration remained silent and did nothing, just like an indifferent spectator.

This is how U.S. civilization manifests itself. This how U.S. democracy expresses its spirit and principles—namely, approval of the brutal killing and annihilation. The reason is that those who are killed are Palestinians and not Russian or Polish emigrants who are prevented from traveling or crossing the Berlin barricades.

The U.S. Administration might say that it does not approve of what is going on, in order to avoid any criticism to which it might be sensitive. However, we say that this does not deceive anybody, because the Israeli action is an official result of U.S. policy. Just as the United States, as opposed to the whole world and world opinion, defended Israel against all resolutions that branded it with terrorism, thus not only challenging the will of the international community but also holding in contempt this community's thought and conscience, the United States this time is required to defend Nabulus, not against the will of the world but together with that will.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Peace Process, Economy

JN0312170689 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Dec pp 14-15

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM publisher 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] The publisher: Judging by recent Palestinian utterances, there are differences among Palestinian factions concerning the Egyptian initiative as well as Baker's five points which were said to have ignored the core of the Palestinian issue, focusing instead on the elections proposal. What do you think?

President Mubarak: The 10 points do not address all sides of the question since inquiries about all the points cannot possibly lay the proper groundwork for a dialogue. There are points that are acceptable to neither of the two parties. We have discussed with the Palestinians those points that they find objectionable. Most of the points are agreeable to the Americans. Our 10 points have not found favor with Israel inasmuch as they essentially envisage an exchange of land for peace. As for Baker's plan, it exclusively seeks a dialogue between the two sides. While we agree with the Americans on certain points of the plan we have reservations about others. Initially, Israel rejected the plan and later accepted, albeit with reservations, and demanded guarantees.

The idea is for the two sides to sit for talks as is happening now between the Americans and the Palestinians.

In my opinion it is better to engage in dialogue than make statements in the full glare of the media. The dialogue will not cause any harm. On the contrary, it will lead to a better understanding. It may have a false start but no matter how fraught with difficulties at the outset, eventually it will produce positive results.

We would like our Palestinian brothers to take this route, and we will not impose anything on them. We are expending great efforts in coordination with the PLO in the interest of a settlement to the Palestinian issue. There are some who are opposed to this approach, but they offer no alternatives. Had they been asked to come up with an alternative course, they would have failed to provide one. Thus it is rejection for the sake of rejection. We made superhuman efforts for the dialogue between the United States and the PLO to get under way. If we succeed in forging a dialogue between Israel and the PLO, it will prove a historic achievement by all standards.

The publisher: Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati recently made some proposals on the release of Egyptian prisoners in Iran. What is your opinion of these proposals?

[Mubarak] To begin with, we must say that dialogue should be held on all prisoners in Iran, including the Egyptian prisoners. I know there is a limited number of Arab prisoners; the rest are Iraqis. If Iran wants to open a dialogue on the prisoners, then let it open this dialogue with Iraq. And, if Iran wants to release the Egyptian prisoners without a dialogue, we welcome this.

The publisher: Mr President, how do you view the situation in the Lebanese arena, and what about your expectations of the future, especially in light of General Michel 'Awn's stance, which is akin to rebellion?

The president said: I do not agree with Gen 'Awn's stance because for 15 years the Lebanese situation has been deteriorating. This long state of fragmentation is a very serious issue for any state. This could lead to division into scattered ministates. The existence of a legitimate government in Lebanon is undoubtedly the natural starting point to unify the state. After this comes the issue of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. We are still supporting the view that all foreign forces must withdraw from Lebanon, whether Israeli, Syrian, or Iranian. It is difficult to do all this at a single go. Nevertheless, we believe that this can take place in stages.

The publisher: Is your not being sensitive about dealing with the Israelis due to your distinguished military performance during the October war, of which you were one of its victorious commanders?

President Mubarak: We are not sensitive about dealing with anyone. Had we had such a sensitivity, we would not have dealt with anyone. We deal with others on an equal basis—frankly, clearly, and without detours and evasions. He who makes a mistake is wrong, we call for dialogue, and we are consistent. [sentence as published]

The publisher: Your Excellency, they say in Israel that President Mubarak wants to isolate Shamir and strengthen the moderate wing represented by the Labor Party, which supports the Egyptian and U.S. proposals. Is it really true that what is currently taking place between President Mubarak and Shamir is a provocative psychological war? What is your comment on this?

President Mubarak: We use neither psychological nor provocative wars. We have a clear vision; namely, our readiness to hold a dialogue provided that we come up with results that serve the cause. We, however, are not alone in this vision. Before assuming office, President Bush expressed a readiness to visit the region if this would help resolve the conflict, although this would require much preparation. Likewise, I proposed to meet with Shamir, but he hastened to declare his famous no's: no to the international conference; no to the principle of exchanging land for peace; and no to other things. When he was asked about this, he said "there is no price for Mubarak's visit," and then he invited me to visit Israel!

Thus, it appeared that he did not understand the meaning of my initiative. I talked about a meeting that would help peace efforts, a meeting whose results would be in line with my responsibility to Arab and Egyptian public opinion. I did not talk about a meeting during which we take refreshments together and after which I go out and tell people that nothing happened. I would not lie and say we agreed on something when we agreed on nothing. If Shamir really wants a serious meeting, preparations and arrangements must be made before the meeting so that it can serve the cause and the peace process. We do not want merely a meeting through which Israel can tell the world it is seeking a solution to the problem.

The publisher: Your Excellency, will the issues of the region be discussed at the Malta summit of U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev?

President Mubarak: I believe it will be a preparatory meeting, because events taking place in Eastern Europe, the problems facing the Soviet Union now, and reducing the U.S. defense expenditure are all issues that deserve the two men's discussion and dialogue. This is the first meeting between Gorbachev and Bush since the latter took office.

The publisher: Your Excellency, what about the Middle East?

President Mubarak: The Middle East will not be at the top of the priorities.

The publisher: How does the president assess the current changes in East Europe and how does the president view the pace of these changes, which were like an explosion, or what we might call an intifadah?

President Mubarak: They are very significant changes, and they will have a deep and different impact on different levels. They are not like a spontaneous, uncontrolled explosion. In one of their aspects, these changes demonstrate the Soviet Union's desire to diversify its technology, improve its industries, and benefit from the technological development of the West; there is no doubt about this. East Europe and West Europe may come closer to each other and form a single world power, and maybe more than this will take place.

The publisher: Other than that, how can the Soviet Union benefit?

President Mubarak: Gorbachev has started a major process of change in the Soviet Union. The same thing took place in Bulgaria and Hungary, and before that in Poland and Czechoslovakia. The people want freedom and other things. Gorbachev came to give his people freedom and enable them to get all these things, and the epidemic spread. This intifadah, as you call it, should not raise fear in the world.

The publisher: Some people say there are signs that the basic changes in Eastern Europe constitute a radical and essential change in world economy. Studies on the world economy assert that U.S. and European capital will pour into Eastern Europe for investment purposes. This will harm the already deteriorating economic situation in the developing countries. Does the president agree with this view?

President Mubarak: What you have said could happen. We cannot deny this. During our previous conversation, we talked about this subject and I said that the Arab countries began establishing a joint Arab market before Europe started thinking about the establishment of the EEC. Europe will realize unity in 1992 and we have not yet achieved anything. Look at the difference. Moreover, Eastern Europe is expected to be an economic power in light of the current developments we have mentioned. It is possible that the Europeans will form a unified economic block. The Soviet Union is also moving in accordance with the new concepts and proposals arising from perestroyka. We also should not forget the United States and Canada. There is a connection between all these moves and nothing separates them. But we, the Arabs, are in a miserable situation, and we do not want to move.

The publisher: Is this situation due to dependence on oil?

President Mubarak: Oil can be severely harmed too. We know that there are many loopholes through which it can be harmed. If this takes place, we will find ourselves paralyzed. We should think, and the Arab League should move and discuss what should be done. Egypt is completely ready to provide a study on this issue for the Arab League.

The publisher: Speaking of the Arab League, Mr President, has the league actually begun moving to Cairo?

President Mubarak: The league's charter states that Egypt is the headquarters country. But we would not want to anger anybody.

The publisher: There is a proposal that the headquarters be moved back to Cairo and the current one be retained as a branch.

President Mubarak: The Arab League is welcome in Cairo. We have nothing against it.

The publisher: If we could go back to the subject of the impending summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, it is interesting that you should refer to the marginality of the Middle East question at the summit talks.

President Mubarak: The priorities are dictated by world developments and bilateral relations between the superpowers. Not until the parties to the dispute are serious about a resolution of the region's problems will the Middle East be addressed as a priority issue.

The publisher: Why doesn't Israel, one of the regional players, urge the U.S. Administration to tackle the Palestinian problem, the core of the issue, more seriously?

President Mubarak: Far from wanting that, Israel would like nothing better than for the issue to be left unaddressed. It simply serves its interests. World public opinion has been clamoring for Israel to talk to the PLO and push the peace process forward. It was for this reason that Israel maneuvered and consented, albeit with reservations, to the Baker plan.

The publisher: Tension had been expected to ease following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. But the Afghans are now fighting among themselves. What do you think, Mr President?

President Mubarak: It is a tragedy. The Arabs are well advised to have a common strategy on various issues since individual action is fruitless. Common action based on research and analysis, on the other hand, should help the promotion of logical solutions that do not harm our interests. We must ask ourselves where we should buy our arms, whom we should help, and in what causes.

The publisher: We have heard about a rapprochement between Egypt and Syria and a possible resumption of ties between the two countries. Is this in the offing?

President Mubarak: There is nothing new on the subject of relations between Egypt and Syria. Pay no attention to all that is being said about the matter. There is talk about reopening air spaces for flights between the two countries, and Egypt has no objections in this regard. But there is nothing tangible to speak of.

The publisher: It is being said that King Husayn's recent move in calling parliamentary elections was taken in response to questions raised by certain Gulf newspapers about the absence of democracy in Jordan.

President Mubarak: Jordan's recent parliamentary elections were the result of political and social developments within the country. King Husayn is a virtuous man, and I know him well. I am convinced that it was the product of developments in Jordan. Any other explanations are tendentious and groundless. I well know the nature of King Husayn's Gulf policies and his good intentions toward the Gulf states. We should not give credence to all that is published by the media. Such people seek to stir up differences. We must learn from our past experience.

The publisher: Your Excellency the President: What is the latest on the capital investment companies and the depositors' money?

President Mubarak: The state prosecution is at present investigating the al-Rayyan affairs and the government has reached agreements with some countries where the al-Rayyan has capital. Some other countries, however, want agreements to be reached through courts of law before capital is recovered. The state prosecution has forsworn its natural right to the legally-prescribed proportion of the retrieved funds. Moreover, government agencies running some of the establishments formerly owned by al-Rayyan have also renounced their rights and have not claimed one cent of the depositors' money. And then there are the travel expenses of delegations seeking the recovery of depositors' funds, and these are borne by the government in full. You will be interested to know that the Council of Ministers is at present looking into the standing of all the capital investment companies and is to report on the position of each and to offer suggestions compatible with the depositors' interests.

The publisher: Who do you think stands in the way of a proposal by his highness the amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad concerning the Third World debt relief?

The president: The rich nations, of course. Unfortunately, these nations refuse to believe that the Third World debtor nations have been encumbered by the debts and their interests, which threaten the world market and consequently the production structure of even the rich nations themselves. Without a doubt, these problems have been exacerbated by falling oil prices. Our economy in Egypt also has suffered. We have to pay $4.5 billion in interest on military debts owed to the United States. If you should ask about the eventual figure of the debts, it will reach $25 billion. So you see how massive and amazing these debts are. The interests of all parties concerned will be served if the rich nations make some concessions, if for no other reason than to allow the wheel of production in developing countries to continue spinning. I respect and appreciate the proposals of his highness the amir, and whenever an opportunity presents itself I praise them. I do this despite the fact the amir is the head of state of a creditor rather than a debtor nation. It is a rule, however, that the rich do not commiserate with the poor.

The publisher: Has the Egyptian Government taken into account the IMF's terms of suspending subsidies and free education in its economic reform plans, or have you rejected them?

The president: The Egyptian Government is pressing ahead with its economic reform plan, making certain the program takes cognizance of Egyptian realities. In drafting an economic reform program, the government has to sympathize with the hardships suffered by the ordinary citizens and appreciate their limited economic means. We have reached a good measure of understanding with the World Bank about some points that had been at issue.

The publisher: Your excellency the President: The subject of Egyptian labor in Iraq has proved one of the most delicate matters in terms of the bilateral relationship and also within the context of the Arab Cooperation Council. Some have argued that the problem was triggered against the background of an imminent Egyptian-Syrian thaw, and following the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement and Egypt's balking at helping 'Awn to take exclusive monopoly of power. What is the truth about this affair?

President Mubarak: The crisis of Egyptian labor in Iraq is rooted in the arrears of Egyptian workers who had traveled there in search of employment opportunities. We certainly fully appreciate Iraq's financial circumstances. The solution we and the Iraqis are working on takes both these factors into consideration. I think the problem is nearing a solution. Allow me to stress that the problem has not reached a crisis point. Our differences with our brothers usually are not allowed to deteriorate to crisis levels. I even would not call them differences. They are normal things that affect relations between any two countries. I would take this opportunity to thank my brother President Saddam Husayn, who took the initiative and told the Egyptian workers that Egypt is Iraq. He is doing all in his power to put the question into perspective.

The publisher: What is the stand on Egyptian-Algerian relations after the soccer match, and what is your excellency's assessment of what happened?

President Mubarak: Relations between the two peoples are deep-rooted and pan-Arab. The events that were an expression of some people's feelings cannot constitute a crisis. I would like to affirm that the final winner was an Arab team. The Egyptian press appreciated this significance and placed it within a sound, fraternal framework. We also congratulated the Algerian team for its performance in the match. We were also pleased that the United Arab Emirates team reached the World Cup games in Rome.

The publisher: The new trend in Yemen today calls for uniting the two parts. How do you describe this trend, and what is your excellency's view?

President Mubarak: I wish them success. The two parts of Yemen have special circumstances in terms of history, geography, and economic and social ties. Our experiment of unity in the Arab world was not on the required level. However, unity as a concept represents a dear hope to us. In all cases, we believe that under the current circumstances the cooperation to safeguard and guarantee common interests will give solidarity among states a better and stronger objective framework to maintain the entity, sovereignty, and decisions of each state.

The publisher: Your Excellency, is there any truth in reports on dissolving the Egyptian People's Assembly?

President Mubarak: These reports and rumors are disseminated every year. Similar reports and rumors are also disseminated on dissolving the Council of Ministers and forming a new one to drive a wedge among the ministers. I affirmed many times that I seek stability and work through constitutional institutions. I only dissolve the People's Assembly, for example, when there is a dire need for this. Making continuous changes means that you do not want to work, you want to preoccupy the people, you are following the local consumption principle, or you want to create arguments and disputes among the people. And the call for amending the Constitution hides personal interests and might greatly harm stability and the process of production and investments in Egypt.

The publisher: Your Excellency, in light of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi's recent health problems, some reports indicate that there will be a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle soon. What do you say about these reports?

President Mubarak: The prime minister is carrying out his tasks and shouldering his responsibilities and burdens. I appreciate his performance and efforts. I told you that we make changes when there is a dire necessity. I must have strong reasons to reshuffle the cabinet. Let those people say whatever they want, and we will continue the earnest work to increase production. We are seeking an increase in production and we will adhere to any Egyptian who plays a positive role in this process.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ghali's Health Improves

NC0712112389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 7 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to France Ahmad Sidqi stated today that the health of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has improved and that his temperature has dropped.

Ambassador Ahmad Sidqi said that medical tests revealed the causes of the ailment from which Dr Butrus Ghali has been suffering. Doctors will begin to administer the necessary medication.

Minister Notes Reply to Baker's Dialogue Plan

NC0612135689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that "the Egyptian Government has sent its response to the U.S. Administration," in reply to a question by MENA about the Egyptian response to the five-point proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker concerning the holding of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Al-Baz Briefs 'Arafat on Talks With Kelly

NC0612152389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1344 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian sources in Cairo have revealed that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, last night briefed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of the talks held by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, in Cairo. 'Arafat stopped over in Cairo International Airport for 1 and ½ hours yesterday en route from Abu Dhabi to Tunis, following an official visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

Meanwhile, the same sources considered it unlikely that U.S. policy concerning Palestinian rights and the PLO would undergo any change, despite the flexibility which the PLO has shown in its reply to [U.S. Secretary of State James] Baker's five points. The sources said that the Palestinian response was based on international legal norms and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people.

'Arafat 'Might Join' Mubarak-Husayn Meeting

JN0612153589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is expected to visit the Jordanian capital of Amman before the end of next week.

Informed Egyptian sources told AL-QABAS that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat might join the Mubarak-Husayn summit.

The Egyptian president's visit, originally scheduled for Thursday, 30 November, was postponed to allow for a review of the results of the Bush-Gorbachev summit and to discuss the positions taken by the superpowers in their deliberations on the Palestine question and a Middle East settlement.

Commentator Assesses Bush-Gorbachev Meeting

NC0612160389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi: "The Summit and the Middle East"]

[Text] The results of the Moscow-Washington summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are being assessed in capitals throughout the world. Political observers view this summit as an experiment, preamble, milestone, or rehearsal for the summit which is due to take place next July.

What the Third World wants from the two superpowers is that their meeting be one of accord more than agreement. It does not want the summit to be confined to alleviating the dangers threatening their own security only, but to go beyond that toward reducing the threats jeopardizing the security and safety of the entire world. It also does not want the scope of reduction in conventional arms and nuclear arms limitation to be confined to the two countries only, but also to include nuclear disarmament in other countries as well. This includes the Third World, where some countries have declined to sign the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, while others refuse to permit the inspection of their nuclear facilities. Such countries, whether in the Middle East, South Africa, Asia, or Central America, could be used as arms depots for the major states or as backdoors through which what had publicly been agreed to scrap will secretly pass.

Among the small states, there are some which absolutely reject any security intervention by the UN, international organizations, or the major countries responsible for peace. Nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa has been disclosed lately, and at some time, the Mediterranean was the scene of experiments on medium- and long-range missiles, on which Israel is preparing to carry nuclear warheads. As is known, the nuclear threat becomes all the more dangerous when it is in the hands of small and irresponsible countries which do not appreciate the commitments of peace and which are involved in problems with their neighbors because of their refusal to be reconciliatory. Such countries could drag the entire world to the brink of war and instability, and could evoke the atmosphere of cold war once again, after the two superpowers had managed to eliminate this completely through direct summit meetings between their leaders.

The Bush-Gorbachev summit is supposed to generate momentum toward reaching actual solutions for regional problems, as a step toward resolving international problems. Otherwise, the settlement of international problems should at least prepare the ground for resolving regional problems on the basis of justice and self-determination.

We also do not want the superpower summit to turn into a propaganda facade. We all recall that, at the 1972 summit, the U.S. and Soviet leaders refused to go into the details of the outstanding problems to reach genuine rather than superficial solutions for problems such as the Middle East. At the time, the two countries mistakenly took the military relaxation then prevailing in the region for peace and, consequently, issued a statement calling for the need to preserve the military detente in the region. It later transpired that this relaxation that had been mistaken for peace by the two countries was the lull before the storm, as demonstrated by the October 1973 war between Egypt and Israel. The Gulf war, Lebanon's crisis, and the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza then followed, thus bringing the region back to the brink of the precipice. The summit participants must take into account the fact that they are not responsible for the security of the major countries only, because peace cannot survive in this or that country alone outside the framework of world peace.

In light of these remarks we await the next summit, in 6 months. In the meantime, we can assess the results of the first summit, and view its shortcomings and the essential matters it missed.

Prime Minister Departs for Tunis 6 Dec

NC0612203789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and an accompanying delegation left here this evening for a 3-day official visit to Tunis. While in Tunis, Dr Sidqi will attend the meetings of the Egyptian-Tunisian higher joint committee, the establishment of which was agreed on during the Tunisian prime minister's visit to Cairo last year. Dr Sidqi will also convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and will chair the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the higher joint committee, which will take place in Tunis on Thursday [14 December] and Friday.

The delegation accompanying Dr Sidqi includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid; the ministers of transport and telecommunications, tourism and civil aviation, economy and foreign trade, and finance; the minister of state for scientific research; and the cabinet secretary general.

Dr Sidqi is expected to return to Cairo on Friday evening following the final session of the joint committee in the afternoon. During the session, Dr Sidqi and Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed Karoui will sign a joint statement on the committee meetings, while the competent ministers from both countries will sign 10 agreements covering the various fields of bilateral cooperation.

Speaking to reporters before his departure, Dr Sidqi stressed the role that could be played by both the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union in promoting inter-Arab action. He noted that Egypt and Tunis, who are members of these two Arab groupings, have both welcomed the establishment of these bodies. He said the two countries could play a significant role in making arrangements within the Arab world for future dealings and talks with a unified Europe in view of the huge volume of trade that both Egypt and Tunis have with Western Europe.

Dr Sidqi expressed his belief that despite European assurances made in statements today that the developments in Europe will not affect its dealings with Egypt or with the Arab countries, we must be prepared to face this huge, strong, and wealthy bloc, which will emerge in January 1993 [as received]. He noted that studies and efforts are under way toward that end.

Concluding his remarks, Dr Sidqi said a number of agreements covering the various fields of bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Tunis will be discussed during the meetings of the joint committee. There will also be a discussion on the existing overland and maritime routes linking the western and eastern part of the Arab world, now that things are back to normal between Egypt and Libya.

Information Minister Meets Libyan TV Official

NC0612202089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif today received Yusuf al-Diri, chairman of the Arab States Broadcasting Union, who is also the general manager of the Libyan Jamahiriyah television. During the meeting, discussions centered on the topics on the agenda of the extraordinary meeting of the Arab States Broadcasting Union slated for the end of the month. This will be the first time that Egypt has attended such a meeting for 10 years.

The information minister stated during the meeting that the information cooperation between Egypt and Libya is proceeding along a [word indistinct] line in order to consolidate the deep-rooted relations between the two fraternal peoples and reflect developing bilateral relations in the political, economic, and social domains [words indistinct] the meeting between leaders Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Al-Sharif also emphasized that the Egyptian media are open to the media in all the Arab countries, noting that cooperation between Egypt and Libya in this field never stopped and that the coming era will witness further cooperation.

At the end of the meeting, the information minister invited the Libyan secretary of the people's committee for information to visit Cairo to discuss and lay down the necessary foundations for developing and promoting bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Fathi al-Bayyumi, acting chairman of the Radio and Television Union, and a number of key figures in the union.

Finnish Foreign Minister Discusses Mideast Issues

NC0612115089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—Pertti Paasio, Finnish minister of foreign affairs, affirmed his country's unreserved support for President Husni Mubarak's efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue. He also emphasized the Palestinians' right to self-determination and establishing their state.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM newspaper published today, the Finnish minister said his country always envisaged that the Middle East settlement must be effected through direct and peaceful negotiations and on the basis of the UN resolutions giving each party the right to exist as a state. [passage omitted]

He noted that Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO does not represent a practical stand. He said: Reality dictates that if we want to deal with the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, we can not exclude the PLO.

He asserted his country's belief in the need to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He urged the international community, particularly the major powers, to work to remove the obstacle to this conference, the failure to recognize the PLO.

Asked about the effect of what is now taking place in the Soviet Union on the Middle East issue, he expressed his belief that these developments will add [words indistinct]. These developments, he said, will help the Soviet Union to be more flexible, which will provide greater opportunity for them to play an effective role in the peace efforts. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Iraq Remittances Paid Regularly

*JN0212103689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
30 Nov 89 pp 1, 4*

[Excerpt] Sa‘d Khawjah, manager of the Cairo branch of Al-Rafidayn Bank, asserted that remittances of Egyptian workers in Iraq are being paid regularly since an agreement was reached between the Iraqi and Egyptian governments during the Egyptian-Iraqi committee meetings. In a statement to AL-WAFD, Khawjah announced the payment of 400-500 remittances daily, which are worth about $500,000. He also stated that the three banks that receive the payments of the Egyptians who work in Iraq—al-Rafidayn, Alexandria, and the Afro-Arab—receive $10 million every 10 days to cover these remittances. [passage omitted]

Israeli-South African Military Ties Noted

*NC0212073989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 2 Dec 89*

[From the "Listeners' Questions" program]

[Text] To listener Ahmad Muhammad Subhi, from the College of Economics, and Rushdi ‘Abd-al-Hamid Khidr, from al-‘Ajuzah:

Israel, with the help of South Africa, has made tangible progress in improving its missile technology. South Africa has refused to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as has Israel, which sees South Africa's vast area as offering enormous potential for carrying out nuclear experiments that cannot be conducted in the current territory controlled or occupied by Israel. Also, South Africa has ample deposits of uranium, including the radioactive uranium used in making nuclear bombs. In return, Israel assists South Africa in designing nuclear bombs.

Paper Cited on Local Manufacture of Nuclear Fuel

*NC3011082189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0435 GMT 30 Nov 89*

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports Egypt has begun to manufacture nuclear fuel from local nuclear raw materials with the aim of self-sufficiency in providing fuel for nuclear reactors. Manufacturing processes have begun at a nuclear fuel plant which was built in cooperation with the FRG. The paper notes the manufacturing of nuclear fuel from local nuclear raw materials is designed to emphasize the transfer of nuclear fuel manufacturing technology to Egypt for the first time. It is very advanced technology.

Sudan

No Progress Reported in Nairobi Peace Talks

SPLA Names Delegates

EA0412215589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The meeting between the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-Army] and ‘Umar al-Bashir's government started in Nairobi on 1 December 1989. The meeting was opened by the American former President, Mr Jimmy Carter, and a certain Kenyan minister, Mr Joseph Muliro. [passage omitted]

At this meeting, the leader of the SPLM-SPLA delegation, Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, said that the SPLM-SPLA had been looking for ways and means to bring peace to the Sudan through dialogue. He said the military regime in Khartoum had blocked all ways to peace by scrapping the previous agreement reached between the SPLM-SPLA and all political parties in the sudan.

Dr Lam Akol, however, went on to say that the SPLM-SPLA wants to create equality in the Sudan, and stop segregation. Religion should not divide the Sudanese people, and religion should not be included in the governing system, he said. Lam Akol said that the government's refusal to allow food relief to the people increased the suffering of the Sudanese people.

The SPLM-SPLA delegation includes: Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, leader: Dr Mansur Khalid: Alternate Commander Elijah Maluk: Alternate Commander Patrick Ayiteng: Captain John Luke: Dr Marial Benjamin: Captain Daniel Kodi: Captain Muhammad Sa'id Bazarah): 1st Lieutenant Joseph Akuot Wet: 1st Lieutenant Yasir Sa'id Arman and 1st Lieutenant Zamba Duku.

'No Headway' on Shari‘a Issue

EA0412192789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Talks (?resumed) today in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, between the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] and the Khartoum's junta.

The talks, which opened last Friday morning [2 December] and started formally on Saturday under the chairmanship of the former American president, Jimmy Carter, were adjourned later that Friday, and on Sunday to enable Muslims and Christians to worship on their respective holidays. The Saturday talks made no headway on the crucial issue of shari‘a, and were adjourned with the understanding that they will resume from where they ended on Saturday.

Expressing his desire to see the talks succeed to bring peace to long-suffering people in Sudan, Mr Jimmy Carter stressed the issue of the shari‘a that if the laws are kept, the SPLA will continue to fight. He stated that the issue of shari'a was not a precondition for talks, but a precondition for peace.

In reply to the junta's claim that the SPLA was placing preconditions for talks, Mr Jimmy Carter, looking sad and upset, appealed to both sides to think of the grave suffering of the Sudanese people and (?strive) for peace. The two delegations will meet alone today. Chairmanship will therefore alternate between the heads of the two delegations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the junta delegation comprised the following: Colonel PSC [passed staff college] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the NSRCC [National Salvation Resolution Command Council]; leader of the delegation: Major General PSC pilot 'Abd al-Khalid Ibrahim—member of the delegation; Brigadier PSC Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar—member of the delegation; Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dhahawi—member; Ambassador 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman al-Numayri—member; Mr Mathew Obur—member; Mr Gajuk Wurnyang Lupaya—member; Mr Andrew Kwach—member; Dr Abdullah Idris—member; Dr Abd al-Sami 'Umar Ahmad—the official spokesman of the delegation; Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din al-Atabani—member.

Advisers on the side of the government delegation are Mr Andrew Malwal Lek; Mr Fadl al-Sid 'Abd al-Qadir; Mr Salah Muhammad Ibrahim; Mr 'Abd al-Basit Mr Bakri Muhammad Abu Bakr; Mr (Qulabawi Muhammad Salih); Mr Musa 'Ali Sulayman: Mr 'Ali Yusuf Hashim; Mr Abd al-Qadir Abdallah; Mr Muhammad al-Tahir; Mr (Abu Bakr Waziri); Mr Muhammad Sulayman; Mr (Muhyi al-Din Titawi); Mr al-Naqib Qamar al-Din; Mr 'Abd al-Dafi al-Khatib; Mr (Adam Jimmy); Mr (Hamid al-Tinayi and Mr Muhammad Abdallah Adam. [passage omitted]

Rebels Call Talks 'Fruitless'

EA0612182789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] For the first time in the 5 months since the Khartoum junta seized power, clamped down on all political parties and trade unions, and wiped out human rights, talks between the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] and the junta have broken down without any progress on all the issues threatening the survival of the country.

The peace talks were held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on 19th to 20th August. The Nairobi talks opened on 5th December [as heard] 1989 and continued for 5 fruitless days.

The talks covered the issues of the notorious September Laws, the military pacts between Khartoum and some neighboring countries, under which SPLA are being bombed, the emergency measures under which hundreds of Sudanese now languish in jail and the need to form a broad-based government and a new national army which would lead the nation to the all-important national constitutional conference.

Although the junta accepted the idea of a national constitutional conference to which both sides agreed the junta (?should take) the federation idea, they adamantly rejected any idea of the repeal or even suspension of Numayri's laws.

They dismissed out of hand the SPLM/SPLA's demand that all democratic forces should join the junta and the movement in the formation of a broad-based government, preferring that such a government be formed between them and the SPLM/SPLA. [sentence as heard]

Following the collapse of the talks, former American President Jimmy Carter, who had presided over the Friday and Saturday talks, addressed a well-attended press conference in which he announced the failure of the two sides to reach agreement.

Mr Carter said that, unlike the SPLM/SPLA delegation, the junta delegation had not come with full authority to reach decisions on the issues under discussion, noting that shari'a laws are still being used, although sentences imposed under them are not carried out.

Mr Carter said the issue now was whether the government would take action to suspend the shari'a, adding: I think it is very easy. He said he believed the SPLA was ready to negotiate if shari'a laws were suspended, and he stressed that the responsibility to end the war is with the National Command Council.

Mr Carter, who looked greatly disappointed, said: As you know, the military leader of Sudan today said he was marshalling military force to destroy the SPLA. I do not think he can do it, Mr Carter said. He said it was unfortunate that the people of Sudan were going back to war.

London Paper Interviews Sudan's 'Ali Shummu

PM0512142989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Dec 89 p 37, 38

[Interview with Sudanese Information Minister 'Ali Shummu by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Let us first ask you: What is the difference between the former government's views on the problem of the south and the views put forward by the national dialogue steering committee in its final report on solving the problem?

Shummu: The former government neither proposed nor concluded any agreements. Even the last agreement was an agreement between the Democratic Unionist Party and the Garang movement and only covered general principles. [passage omitted]

The dialogue committee's efforts were national efforts because all Sudanese sectors, including all fields of political, academic, and other areas of specialization and experience, took part. For the first time there was a dialogue lasting that long—6 weeks—and for the first time there was a conscious in-depth study of all Sudanese problems with concentration on the problem of the south, its roots, the effects of the war, the relationship between religion and state, identity, the form of government in Sudan, and administrative and constitutional structure. There was a clear and candid dialogue with many documents produced and many lectures delivered on all issues. The result of the discussions was a new concept that was never raised in the past. At the beginning discussions were sharp but the dialogue ended in agreement and resulted in new recommendations on concepts of a federal solution. That has never happened before in the history of Sudan. The results were good and the dialogue succeeded, unlike any other past dialogue on the issue.

AL-HAWADITH: But salvation revolution leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's statements and agreement to the separation of the south from the north point to a different concept of a solution.

Shummu: Al-Bashir made no such statement at all because separation of the south from the north is not the revolution's line. We do not welcome any such inclination and we will absolutely not allow secession of the south from the north. This is a lie which some people are spreading in an attempt to portray government policies as separatist policies. If that was the government's policy it would only have to withdraw the army from the south. Such claims are unfounded. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that the fall of Kurmuk changed the political and military equation, with Ethiopia again becoming a permanent supporter of Garang's movement? The military equation has changed with Garang's escalation of his operation and his ability to retake the town.

Shummu: Regarding the the military equation, Kurmuk did not fall as a result of a military battle. They had previously tried three times to enter Kurmuk and suffered heavy losses. Major battles were fought between the Sudanese Army and Garang's forces from Ethiopia. When they sought the help of others in the shelling and bombardment of Kurmuk using artillery with a 30 km range, when shells began to rain down on the town, the army had to withdraw from the guns' range, otherwise it would have become a suicide operation. As known, Kurmuk is 40 meters [as published] from the borders. The artillery shells which fell in the town came from beyond the Sudanese border.

AL-HAWADITH: So Ethiopia did participate in the capture of Kurmuk. Does this mean that it has changed its previous policy of withholding aid from the Garang movement?

Shummu: The Ethopian attitude surprised Sudanese circles. We had had warm relations and contacts with the brothers in Ethiopia, had made continuous efforts to solve the Eritrean problem, and they had promised to work for a solution of the problem in the south. That is why the sudden escalation came as a surprise. So far we have been unable to find an acceptable explanation for it. Anyway, we hope that Ethiopia will be cautious in dealing with Israel following the restoration of diplomatic relations between them and we hope it will still be interested in good neighborliness with its fraternal neighbors, especially Sudan.

AL-HAWADITH: There has been much talk about an Israeli presence within Garang's movement and about the movement receiving military aid, but without clear evidence.

Shummu: Yes, the brothers in the armed forces saw foreign experts when they came face to face with Garang's forces. The Israelis have replaced the Cuban experts who used to help the movement but left some time ago. Moshe Arens' statement after the resumption of relations with Ethiopia confirms Israeli intervention. He said that they—the Israelis—have the Arabs encircled, having reached states surrounding them. There is definite information that they supply the rebels with arms and experts. One cannot just make allegations about these things because the fighting is still raging between us and the rebels.

AL-HAWADITH: You have, noticeably, again been talking about the joint defense agreement with Egypt, despite the fact that abrogation of that agreement was one of Garang's conditions for starting a dialogue.

Shummu: These were his terms before the salvation revolution, but that ended after the revolution. However, if these are his preconditions for dialogue then we would reject them because the joint defense agreement or any other agreement is a matter for discussion and dialogue and cannot be abrogated as a precondition for dialogue.

AL-HAWADITH: I understand that Garang has new conditions.

Shummu: Yes, there are now conditions. He declares as a condition anything that comes into his mind. The latest was a return to civilian rule, participation by the trade unions and parties in an enlarged government, and also restructuring of the army. I fear that Garang will have made new conditions by the time this interview reaches the readers of AL-HAWADITH.

AL-HAWADITH: What exactly is the position on the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defense agreement?

Shummu: The position can specifically be summed up in the following: The joint defense agreement exists and remains. No legal steps have been taken to abrogate it. Egypt's security is part of Sudan's security and vice versa. The agreement is in the interest of both countries and people and is not against anyone. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Have the investigations regarding Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other [former] Sudanese leaders been completed, and when will they be brought to trial?

Shummu: The investigations cover all the detainees and are still continuing with some of them. Whoever is proved innocent of involvement in corruption cases will be released and whoever is proved to have been involved will be brought to trial with all legal guarantees provided. Former State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna and some ministers have been sentenced but the court then ordered retrial of al-Banna. Some have been tried and acquitted.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the real number of detainees in Sudan?

Shummu: There are no more than 50 people. We have recently released the former finance minister and deputy leader of the al-Ummah Party. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about the revival of the trade unions, which had been banned?

Shummu: The trade unions are operating again and the committees elected previously have begun their work.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the revival of the parties being contemplated?

Shummu: The parties is another matter. They will not be revived and such a matter is not under consideration because the democratic experiment failed. Anyway, all experiments are subject to re-examination.

AL-HAWADITH: Is the idea of a one-party system being considered?

Shummu: It is too early for such matters, particulary as Sudan has already tried the one-party and the multiparty systems. Everything is open to study and evaluation to determine the political system in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Hailed for Kurmuk Victory

EA0112122189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Hasan Isma'il al-Bili, the minister of justice, public prosecutor and acting minister of interior, has sent a congratulatory cable to the minister of defense, the commander in chief and the chief of staff and his deputies, and to the officer commanding the force which liberated al-Kurmuk and the commander of the 14th Brigade in al-Damazin, on the liberation of al-Kurmuk.

You have made your country proud. You have erased the damage inflicted upon our country by the mercenary puppet gangs. Attach the head to the tail [attach the north to the south]. Let them experience your harshness so that tomorrow, God willing, the towns of the beloved south can be united with their sister towns of the north, after being liberated by the blood of men, regardless of whether the rebels reject or seek peace. The other regular forces are vigilantly guarding your rear and foiling the machinations of your enemy.

May God render you victorious and lengthen your stride, for victory comes only from God.

PDRY

Draft Joint Yemeni Constitution Reported

EA0212113289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, last night signed an agreement on the Aden summit following the unification meetings held in Aden between the leaderships of the two parts of the Yemeni homeland 29-30 November 1989. Text of the agreement is as follows: [passage omitted]

During the visit of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, leading a large official and popular delegation to participate in the Yemeni people's celebrations marking the 22d anniversary of the independence of the southern Yemeni homeland 29-30 November 1989, the draft permanent Constitution of the united state drawn up bythe joint constitutional committee on 30 December 1981, corresponding to 4 Rabi' al-Awwal 1402 AH was ratified and approved by the leaderships of the two parts as represented by Brothers Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress,, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in implementation of the articles laid down in the Kuwait agreement, provided that the steps agreed on in the previous agreements are taken, particularly those referred to in Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the Cairo agreement, by implementing the following:

1. The draft constitution to be submitted to the consultative Council and the People's Council respectively in the two parts of the homeland for approval in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions within a period not exceeding 6 months. Subject to authorization by the two legislative bodies, the presidents of the two parts will arrange a referendum on the draft constituion and ?he holding of elections to a unified legislative body for the new state in accordance with the new constitution. The presidents of the two parts will then form a joint ministerial committee embracing as members the respective ministers of interior of the parts to supervise implementation of these steps within a period not exceeding 6 months from the date the legislative bodies of the two parts approve the draft constitution. This committee will have all the necessary powers to carry out its task. The presidents of the two parts will call on the Arab League to dispatch representatives to participate in the committee's work.

2. Full implementation, within a period not exceeding 2 months, of the Ramadan May 1988 agreement in terms of activating the Yemeni Supreme Council, the joint ministerial committee and the joint unificatory committees, implementation of the results of the first session of the joint ministerial committee which met in Sanaa 21-23 March 1989, and expedited implementation of the tasks of the joint unificatory committees.

B. [as heard] the political unification organizing committee to be urged to expedite discharge within a period not exceeding 2 months and in a manner guaranteeing preparations for the political work of the united states in the light of its draft constitution and in a manner serving to reinforce the democratic course of that work the task the committee embarked upon wit? effect from its first session.

3. The leaderships of the two parts shall be committed to implementing this agreement within the period laid down.

Signed in Aden 30 November 1989, corresponding to 1 Jamadi al-Ula 1410 AH,
'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee;
Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress

Leaders of North, South Hold News Conference

EA0312073689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] After the signing of the Aden summit meeting agreement, Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih respectively delivered statements to representatives of the Yemeni, Arab, and foreign media and press.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, said Yemeni unity was our Yemeni people's great emotive cause, espoused by all regardless of their level, culture, or position. He said that in response to the aspirations of the masses and far removed from the atmosphere of tension and war, the leaderships of the two parts had become truly convinced that democracy constitutes the road toward unity. What is new to the work of unification, he said, is the firm linkage between democracy and unity, in addition to the conviction of the need to involve other patriotic forces in the Yemeni arena. It was by virtue of the understanding reached between the two leaderships that the unificatory action began to assume a different character and it is this that has reassured our Yemeni masses.

The brother secretary general of the YSP said the understanding and linkage between democracy and unity have served to save time. He said: We have adopted this responsible and harmonious stance so as to return to the people and all their honorable patriotic forces in the various creative, mass, and political organizations, involving them with ourselves in performing this task. Thus, in a spirit of peace and democracy, we shall seek a decision from our Yemeni people. We approach our affairs far removed from the principle and psychology of violence; denominational, tribal, or clan problems; and all other maladies. He added: We must continue to respond to our Yemeni people's hopes and aspirations, adopt these, and transform them into tangible realities. [passage omitted]

Addressing the news conference, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: We came from the north to the south of the homeland to join our people in celebrating this great historic occasion. We came at the head of a large official and popular delegation also to hold a dialogue with the brothers in the southern homeland with a view to restoring its unity, which is a strategic aim of the Yemeni revolution. [passage omitted]

He said: What makes the agreement we signed in Aden today distinctive is that it is the product of a positive atmosphere in which dialogue and understanding prevail in a spirit of patriotic responsibility and peace. This will qualitatively boost our people's ability to move toward total merger unity. [passage omitted] In serving this strategic cause we are willing to sacrifice to the limit, even to the extent of giving up our positions of leadership if that is what the people want. The first and last decisions on this are in the hands of the people. [passage omitted]

Replying to a journalist's question about multiple parties in the two parts, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said: We have agreed, in principle, on multiple parties in the Yemeni arena. He said: We have agreed that the political unification organizing committee will complete its work within months.

Replying to a question on the timing of the proclamation of Yemeni unity, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih referred to the agreement to submit the constitution of the united state to the legislative bodies in the two parts within 6 months and the holding of a referendum on it within the following 6 months. He said: We may even engender surprise by taking unificatory steps even more advanced than those specified in the agreement. As confidence grows strong and increasingly entrenched and the mass organizations and all the leaderships meet, we may be able greatly to curtail the time factor.

On Yemeni borders with neighboring sisterly countries, Brother 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih said there is no Arab or any other country without a border problem. He said as far as we are concerned in the Arab homeland, we live in the context of the Arab family. It is therefore not a very important problem, particularly inasmuch as we have more significant pan-Arab problems, such as that of the Palestinian Arab people. He said border problems between countries can be resolved peacefully and by arriving at a direct understanding. He said agreement had been reached to form a Yemeni committee from the two parts of the homeland to solve border problems with parties interested in discussing Yemeni border issues.

On the nature of the unified political organization, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained that alternative versions had been submitted to the unified political organizing committee, which would, by way of discussions to be held within 2 months, decide which version was the most appropriate. He said: We favor the alternative which gives scope for the broad participation of the forces struggling to achieve the aims of the 26 September and 14 October Revolutions and excludes the forces opposing the revolutions.

On the unification of the mass organizations and professional and creative unions in the two parts, Brotper 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said the union agreement embraces all the leading officials and mass organizations. Any unification of the chairmanships of state and government organizations will automatically apply in the case of their mass and creative counterparts. He said: If they begin to organize and merge, we shall not object.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid drew attention to the initiative of the Yemeni Literary and Writers' Union as a unionist pioneer in this respect and as a democratic Yemeni organization. He called on the other mass organizations and professional and creative unions to follow the example of the Yemeni Literary and Writers' Union by striving to unify themselves. They would be afforded all facilities to do so in the democratic atmosphere characterizing our reality today.

At the end of the news conference, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih confirmed that the leaderships of the two parts had agreed to discharge their responsibilities and that there would be no differences between them as of today. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid agreed with him in this respect, saying: We have agreed that we can agree and disagree for the sake of reaching agreement.

Council Reviews Unionist Measures; UK, Libyan Ties

EA3011100589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. It discussed a number of issues and reports on its agenda.

After that, the Council of ministers hailed the 22d anniversary of the glorious national independence, the celebration of which this year coincides with the extensive mass support inside and outside the homeland for the unionist measures and activities, which are taking place today in the two parts of the homeland. The purpose of these activities is to achieve a transitional federal formula, in an endeavor to firmly establish the foundation of a state of total merger and unity, and the masses' support for their democratic rights. [passage omitted]

At its meeting, the Council of Ministers authorized the foreign minister to sign a memorandum of understanding for scientific and technical cooperation between democratic Yemen and the United Kingdom Government, and to present it in final form to the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed a report on the visit of the deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and the results of the meeting of the joint Yemen-Libyan economic committee, and a report on the visit of the minister of justice and Waqfs [religious endowments] to the Moroccan kingdom, to participate in the conference of the council of Arab ministers of justice, and his visit to the Algerian repulblic. The council appreciated the valuable results of those visits. The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other reports and adopted the necessary measures on them.

Foreign Affairs Minister Cited on Unity Process

PM0712115289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Yemeni Unity Source of Security and Stability in the Region"]

[Text] Aden, AL-SHARQ aL-AWSAT—People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali has announced in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Yemeni unity, which entered the implementation stage the moment the agreement was signed at 2215 hours on 30 November 1989, will be "a source of security, stability, and cooperation among all the brothers in the region."

Minister al-Dali said that "the ball is now in the U.S. court" vis-a-vis the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The PDRY minister said "we discussed with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati the possibilities of a comprehensive and complete peace between Iraq and Iran, because that would play a leading role in stabilizing conditions in the region."

He described the Aden agreement as a major success and a step forward toward completing the restoration of Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

Asked about coordination between the two parts in the foreign policy field, Al-Dali said "it is natural for the implementation to start with coordination. Political stances must be unified, and there are no vast distances separating the two parts. In fact we feel that the positions are identical on the unified state's foreign policy, and this will be reflected in the agreed program of the unified state at the Arab or international level. I believe that this policy will express the Yemeni people's aspirations, whether in backing the Palestinian brothers or supporting all initiatives for international peace and justice.

He pointed out that Yemeni foreign policy within the unified state framework will be more active and broader than it is now in both parts, "because our relations are expected to be broader and more comprehensive in the new situation, especially with friendly and fraternal states, the Eastern bloc, the West, the Islamic states, and the Nonaligned Movement."

On Waldegrave's visit to Aden, which started last evening, he said: It is part of a tour of a number of states in the region, and it is the first by a British official since independence.

Dr al-Dali added: "We consider this visit—at such a level—an expression of the two countries' desire to advance their bilateral relations to a new phase, because the past stage witnessed no tangible progress in official relations between the two countries, except in the trade field." [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Notes Differences in Oil Talks

EA0412131589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] By the end of 1989, 44 oil-producing wells will be ready in the Ayyad al-Gharb field in the Governorate of Shabwah. This was announced by Brother Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy premier, and minister of energy and mines, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London in Arabic and quoted by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY.

He pointed out that the plan is to prepare 64 oil wells by the middle of 1990. He added that the talks between the joint Yemeni company responsible for oil in the joint area and the five companies which won contracts were not concluded during the meeting held in Sanaa in the middle of last month. He said that the difference between the two sides centers on the sharing of production and the length of time involved. The companies are demanding 30 percent of the production and a period of 5 years for surveying and prospecting. He pointed out that the percentage and the duration of time do not conform with what the Yemeni company wants.

He emphasized that the work on the pipeline between the oil area and the Aden refinery should be completed by the middle of this month, and it will be 204 km long. It will be tested for a period of 2 months before it is put into operation.

Brother bin Husaynun emphasized that the two Yemeni parts would benefit fully from natural resources, whether oil or minerals. He said that our country would benefit from the fraternal Arab countries which have enormous resources and long experience in the field of oil and its various stages. Iraq and Kuwait benefit from refining their oil in the Aden refinery, and in addition there is an exchange of experience with other states.

Al-'Attas Receives Iranian Foreign Minister

EA0112134489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, today received brother Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who extended to him congratulations from the Iranian leadership on the occasion of the anniversary of national independence. Bilateral relations and a number of issues of common interest were also reviewed during the meeting. The meeting was attended by brother Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister.

Foreign Ministry Talks Held

EA0112134689 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Official talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today between Democratic Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Iran. They were chaired for the Yemeni side by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, and for the Iranian side by Brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. Cooperation between the two brotherly countries and strengthening and developing it were reviewed during the talks. A number of issues and latest developments in the Arab and international arenas were also reviewed.

The two sides confirmed their support for the Palestinian uprising and the legimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national territory and to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Brother Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Aden this evening after ending his visit to democratic Yemen. He said in a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he and his delegation were grateful for the hospitality and courtesy accorded them. He said he had delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Brother Haydar 'Abu Bakr al-Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. He confirmed that relations between our country and the Islamic Republic of Iran were firm, good and brotherly. He emphasized the need to exchange delegations and visits for dialogue in the interest of the development and strengthening of relations between the two brotherly countries.

DFLP's Hawatimah Visits, Meets Al-Bid

EA0312215189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, met at noon today [2 November] with Brother Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who is currently on a visit to our country at the head of a DFLP delegation, at the party central committee's invitation.

During the meeting, there was a lengthy review of the situation in the Palestinian arena, and of the glorious deeds of the intifada of the Palestinian Arab nation in the occupied territories, through the escalation of its heroic resistance to the slaughter and repressive brutal measures carried out by the Zionist occupation authorities. These measures are aimed at surrounding it, hitting it, and liquidating the gains and achievements it has scored.

There was also discussion of the current political developments on the Arab and international levels. Bilateral relations between the YSP and the DFLP, and ways of developing and strengthening them, were also discussed.

At the meeting, the brother secretary general reviewed the efforts of our party aimed at achieving comprehensive political and economic reform, and deepening revolutionary concepts at various levels. He described the historic unionist steps which have been made on the path of building strong bases for Yemeni unity.

While reviewing current political, Arabic, and international developments, the brother secretary general emphasized the continued support of our country—party, people, and government—for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, led by the PLO, for their legitimate national rights. These rights are, above all, their right to return, self-determination, and the building of an independent national state. He also emphasized our country's support and backing for the Palestinian uprising, with all available resources. In this respect, he appealed to all the Arab nationalist organizations and forces and the international community to offer all means of support for it, until it achieves all the just rights of the Palestinian people.

For his part, Brother Nayif Hawatimbh expressed his confidence that the valiant uprising led by the PLO, as it enters its third year, will continue, despite all the plots and designs aimed at destroying it and obliterating the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. He expressed confidence that the Palestinian people would continue their struggle until it practically translated their aspirations into freedom and independence, through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Brother Nayif Hawatimah also praised the principled and honest support being offered by Democratic Yemen for the Palestinian revolution, and for the valiant uprising of the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by Brother Jawdat Yusuf, the front's representative in Aden.

Palestinian Representative Ends Tour of Duty

EA3011095389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] In his office yesterday [27 November] evening Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist party [YSP] and secretary of the Central Committee, met with Brother Tariq Abu Ziyad, representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Aden, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty.

Aspects of the bilateral militant relations between the party and the front were discussed during the meeting. Emphasis was put on the consolidation and deepening of these relations. The meeting also touched on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

The brother assistant secretary general praised the development of the relations, as well as the possibilities for developing them.

For his part, Brother Tariq Abu Ziyad praised the stand of PDRY people, party and government in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people. He expressed his thanks for the intimate brotherly cooperation (?he) received during his tour of duty in Aden.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Returns to Ta'izz From Aden

JN0112132089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the [Yemen Arab] Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned today to Ta'izz from Aden after heading a large official and popular delegation on a visit to the southern part of our homeland. During the visit he joined our people in the southern part in the Yemeni people's celebrations of the 22d anniversary of independence and the withdrawal of the colonial power. [passage omitted]

Addresses Rally, Hails Yemeni Unity

JN0212193589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning attended the massive popular festival that was held at Martyrs' Square in the city of Ta'izz. [passage omitted]

Amid the people's resounding cheers and applause and their overwhelming national enthusiasm, President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, unionist struggler, leader of the modern Yemeni renaissance, and pioneer of the unity of the homeland, addressed the massive crowds of people. He said: O masses, I extend the greetings of victory and unity to you. I am pleased to talk to you and review the new unionist steps for you and our people's masses in the north and the south. We went from the northern part to the southern part of the homeland to offer congratulations on your behalf to your sons and brothers in the southern part of the homeland on a national occasion that is dear to us all; namely, Independence Day and the anniversary of the departure of the last colonial soldier.

From this spot, the brother president said, and from the middle of this square, the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir spoke amid throngs of people about the departure of the last colonizer from the southern part of the homeland. Today, and from this spot we bring our people the glad news of the new unionist step. It was agreed in Aden to submit the draft constitution of the state of unity to the legislative authorities in the two parts after it was frozen for a long time. This represents a great victory for the Yemeni revolution and for our Yemeni people. For, in accordance with this draft plan, the complete merger and unity of the homeland will be realized again through peaceful and democratic means. The meeting in Aden, he added, differed completely from past meetings. In the past, we endorsed unionist steps within an atmosphere of tension between the two parts, during which the blood of the sons of the two parts of the homeland was shed. This great and advanced step comes within an atmosphere of love, amity, loyalty, and democracy between the leaders of the two parts.

The brother president leader said: On behalf of you all we reject all types of violence and tension between the two parts of the one Yemen. We reject sectarianism, gangsterism, and racism, and in your name we proclaim: No gangsterism, no fanaticism, no sectarianism. He explained that in unity there is might, loftiness, and dignity for our Yemeni people, and that unity is for the sake of the new generation so that it will be happy and will not live in an atmosphere of tension between the two parts of the homeland once again. He said: As we sacrificed the lives of many martyrs for the sake of bringing victory to the revolution, we will offer every sacrifice to realize unity via peaceful and democratic dialogue and without shedding one drop of blood.

In his speech, the brother president of the Republic and secretary general stressed that unity is the symbol of might, glory, and victory for our Yemeni people, and that in unity there is no victor or vanquished because we are one Yemeni people. We extend our hand, he said, to those of our people for the sake of unity. The masses in both parts have displayed great enthusiasm toward regaining the unity of the homeland so that brother can meet brother and father can meet son within the one homeland. With your struggle, he added, and with your efforts we protect unity, the greatest strategic objective of our revolution. Unity means security, stability, peace, prosperity, and happiness for the two parts, not just for one. Unity comprises justice, democracy, equality, and freedom; in it there is all that is aspired to by the Yemenis in the north and the south. He asserted that Yemen's prosperity, progress, and might lie in unity, and that all Yemeni masses have the right to freedom and democracy. He said: We believe in the freedom of all groups, unions, institutions, and organizations, which have the right to true democracy away from all domination. [passage omitted]

President Returns to Capital After Trip to South

JN0312161589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress this morning returned to Sanaa, the historical capital of the unity state, after he made a historic, successful visit to the southern part of the homeland, which culminated in the signing of the Aden agreement between the leaderships of the two parts.

The Aden agreement states that the unionist state's draft constitution will be referred to the two legislative authorities prior to putting it to a popular referendum in the two parts. Its approval will be the basis for building the Yemeni unity state—the strategic aim of the masses of our people in the Yemeni state. [passage omitted]

Salih Briefs Council, Cabinet, Committee on Unity

JN0512181089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired an expanded meeting of the Consultative Council, the General Committee, and the Council of Ministers this morning. At the beginning of the meeting, the brother president leader welcomed the brothers participating in the meeting and reviewed the positive and important results of the brotherly unionist dialogue between the leaders of the two parts of the Yemeni homeland—a dialogue which was held by the brother president leader and his official and popular delegation during their visit to our southern part to attend our national celebrations on the national day of independence.

The brother president leader affirmed that what was achieved was the result of the honest brotherly joint efforts exerted by the leaders of the two parts. During the meeting, they also reviewed and evaluated the important national and historic results of the Aden summit, which represent an advanced unionist step toward the Yemeni people's goal of restoring Yemeni unity under the historic agreement signed by the Aden summit and the endorsement of the unity state's draft constitution by the political leaders of the two parts. The constitution and agreement were referred to the two legislative authorities in the two parts to take the necessary measures as stipulated in the agreement itself.

The expanded meeting praised all these results, praising all the honest efforts exerted by the brother President leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his delegation; brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; the members of the Central Committee Political Bureau, the Supreme People's Council Presidium, the government; and officials in the southern part of our homeland.

Participants in the meeting then stressed the national dimensions of these results, which come in response to the will of the Yemeni masses, who are very happy because their fateful unity is approaching. The results also express the honest adherence of the leaders of the two parts to the goals and principles of the glorious 26th September revolution and the 14th October revolution; and they deepen the seriousness of the approach toward Yemeni unity through peaceful and democratic means and consolidating relations of love, brotherhood, and honest and comprehensive dialogue among the sons of the two parts of the homeland in a democratic and peaceful spirit, a spirit which prevails over Yemeni life throughout the Yemeni homeland.

The expanded meeting also emphasized the need to implement accurately and completely all agreements while reinforcing and strengthening ties of unity through intensive meetings between officials in the two parts; through the exchanging of extensive visits on all popular and official levels; through the establishment of trade unions, unions, and unified popular and vocational societies and unions in the two parts; and through merging those that have already been established.

Correction to Agreement on Unity Constitution

JN0112192089

Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 1 December rebroadcasts the text of the unity agreement between the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which appeared on page 16 of the 1 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT. Better reception during the rebroadcast permits the following corrections:

Page 16, column one, paragraph three, middle of only sentence, make read: ...the Yemeni homeland, especially after our unity accomplishments contributed toward enriching the climate of... (supplying indistinct words and rewording);

Same paragraph, end of same sentence, make read: ...affirmation of the commitment to increase understanding and dialogue, protect security and... (supplying indistinct words and rewording);

Column two, first paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...was stipulated in the Kuwait agreement on condition that the agreed upon measures in the previous agreements be completed, particularly Clauses 9... (supplying indistinct words and rewording);

Paragraph two, end of first sentence, make read: ...at the most from the date on which the legislative authorities in the two parts approve the draft constitution. This committee will... (supplying indistinct words and rewording);

Paragraph three, first sentence, make read: ...implement the agreement of Ramadan, May 1988, including issues concerning implementation of the work of the Supreme Yemeni Council, the joint ministerial committee, and the unity committees established between the two... (supplying indistinct words, clearing queried word, and rewording);

Last paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...al-Ula, 1410 hegira.

[Signed] 'Ali Salim... (removing editorial notation—no words indistinct).

PRC Delegation Visits Sanaa for Cooperation Talks

JN2911151089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] A PRC delegation arrived in Sanaa this morning headed by Han Kehua, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] National Committee, on a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA' news agency, the PRC official expressed his pleasure at visiting our country which is bound to the PRC by developed relations of friendship and cooperation. He said that he will discuss with the brothers in the Standing Committee secretariat of the General People's Committee means of strengthening and promoting ties between the two fraternal countries. He praised the level of development in bilateral relations in the political, economic, educational, and technical fields. He was received by brother Husayn al-Maqdani, member of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee, a presidential protocal representative, and the PRC ambassador to Sanaa.

Al-'Arashi Receives PRC Delegation

JN2911151889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Judge 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the Shura Council and Standing Committee member, received in his office this morning the PRC delegation currently visiting our country headed by Han Kehua, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] National Committee.

During the meeting, they discussed aspects of cooperation between the Shura Council in our country and the CPPCC. The meeting was attended by brother Husayn 'Abdallah al-Maqdani, member of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee, a presidential protocol representative, and the PRC ambassador to our country.

Delegation Holds Further Talks

JN3011204089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Brother Husayn 'Abdallah al-Maqdamai, Consultative Council member, head of the Administration and Services Council at the Standing Committee, this morning met with a delegation of the People's Republic of China led by Han Kehua, member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and his delgation, currently visiting our country. They reviewed ties between our country and the friendly PRC. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Maqdami noted the solid foundations of Yemeni-Chinese relations and their progressive growth in various areas thus reflecting the developing ties between the two friendly peoples. [passage omitted]

Paper Interviews Ramadan on Iran, Syria Ties

PM0512164089 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 4 Dec 89 pp 14-20

[Interview with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Na'na'] Since the cease-fire, Iraq has been in what we could call a state of neither peace nor war. The two sides have implemented the first article of the [UN Security Council] resolution, namely the cease-fire, but the Iraqi armies have not withdrawn to their positions behind international borders, Shatt al-'Arab has not been cleared, and there has been no exchange of prisoners of war. Although this situation is much better than the years of war, it still is worrying and fragile and has created a sense of instability in the region. Nonetheless, Iraq is rebuilding its cities destroyed in the war, such as Basra and al-Faw, as though you consider the peace definitive. How do you explain that?

[Ramadan] Iran's nonimplementation of Security Council Resolution 598 is not due to the Iraqi Army's presence in small areas of Iranian territory. Iran so far has given no evidence it wants peace. There have been numerous examples of this before and since the resolution was adopted. We all know why Iran accepted Security Council Resolution 598 issued on 20 July 1987. Iraq announced its acceptance of the resolution 3 days after it was passed, whereas Iran announced its acceptance on 18 July 1988. That was at the peak of the Iranian Army's defeat by the Iraqi forces. In his justification of Iran's acceptance Khomeyni uttered his famous words: "Iran's acceptance of that resolution was more difficult to me than taking poison." What does that mean? It means Iran accepted the resolution not because it wanted peace, but because it had to do so.

After accepting the resolution, we declared direct negotiations were necessary—in other words, that the two sides should sit face to face under supervision of the UN secretary general so we could discover Iran's intentions and what it thought of the resolution's provisions. The UN secretary general was the mediator, but since then and to this day, there have been no direct negotiations.

When we accepted the resolution, the Iraqi Army remained in the positions under its control. Everyone knew we would not stay in these positions and that we would implement the articles of the resolution one by one if Iran did the same—in other words, if it committed itself to the implementation of the resolution's provisions.

So Iran's excuse is unjustified. Iraq has provided more than one proof it does not covet a single square foot of Iranian territory. If we had any such ambitions, we would not have withdrawn from any of the positions under our control. Our position is crystal clear, and it is that all articles of resolution 598 must be implemented. We do not want partial implementation of the resolution. We believe in all its provisions the resolution provides for a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution that would establish peace between the two countries. That is why implementation of only some provisions or parts of the resolution would be a violation of the real spirit of that resolution.

Regarding our reconstruction, that is an internal move in harmony with the idea of permanent peace. In fact, it is a clear indication of Iraq's undoubted will for peace. On the other hand, no one can be certain of Iran's interest in peace. So the question which must be asked here is this: If we do not trust Iran's intentions, why are we rebuilding? We are rebuilding out of a desire to supply evidence and proof of our interest in peace and our choice of peace as the final solution, but this does not mean relaxing our preparations for dealing with any emergency. If Iran became involved in a new situation, it would not be a continuation of the previous state of war, but a new war in a new form, involving new methods. All we hope is Iran will not become involved or imagine our peace drive stems from weakness and that such weakness should be exploited. The Iraqi leadership did not accept such an approach in war times, so how could it accept it in peace time? We do not rule out any unrealistic attitude by Iran, but Iran fully must understand such an attitude would result in it losing what it still has, in the event of another war.

[Na'na'] You are talking about a new war in a new form involving new methods if Iran embarks on any adventure. Am I to understand from this that the next war—which God forbid—would not be a conventional war, but perhaps a a missile war, at best? Does it mean the Iraqi defense industry has reached such an advanced stage as to enable you to speak with such absolute confidence?

[Ramadan] We continue to develop our fighting capabilities. When I tell you that if Iran embarked on a new adventure, I do not mean such adventure would be a resumption of the previous state of war, but certainly would be a new war as far as time, combat methods, and extent and size of losses are concerned, because we would not endure or allow our people to endure another 8 years of war. Whatever destruction, pain, and calamities such a war would mean to their people, we refuse to put such a burden on our people.

We certainly wish the Iranian leaders would heed the voice of reason and co-existence and leave something for their people and not let a new war lead to a permanent estrangement between us, for we sincerely want agreement, good, neighborly relations, and complete fulfillment of each side's rights, including Iran's reference to our "holding on to Iranian territory."

[Na'na'] That would mean fulfillment of the Iranian demand which Iran still insists on, that is, implementation of the 1975 agreement signed before the war.

[Ramadan] No, not at all. If the 1975 agreement still were valid, we would not have needed the international community to issue resolution 598. If the 1975 agreement were valid, resolution 598 would not have included article four, which provides for "the settlement of all pending issues between the two countries and the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement." In other words, a new agreement should be signed.

The 1975 agreement no longer exists. If we think back we will see it was Iran which violated the 1975 agreement. How? There is much evidence of it. Iran violated the agreement through its repeated aggressions on our borders, its holding on to Iraqi territory recognized by the 1975 agreement, and its interference in our internal affairs.

The agreement was legally abrogated by us because of this, and the national assembly ratified the abrogation. Therefore, a new agreement is needed. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Do you believe a return to the 1975 agreement would sooner or later lead to more war? Would it be difficult for Iraq to abide by the provisions of the agreement? What risks does it entail?

[Ramadan] I will give you an undiplomatic answer, and it is up to you whether or not to publish it. Assuming the Palestinians agree to take the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to set up a state there, do you think it would in practice lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace, when every Palestinian knows the rest of his country is occupied by Israel, which is there by force of arms? Personally, I am not convinced it would be a valid formula for real peace.

In the Shatt al-'Arab agreement there is a provision stating Shatt al-'Arab must be shared. We accepted it from a position of weakness, but every Iraqi knows that historically, Shatt al-'Arab belongs to Iraq and must return to it sooner or later.

[Na'na'] What would be the real risks for Iraq if Iran owned half of Shatt al-'Arab? If it only is a question of shipping and its regulation, such matters could be agreed on. It seems, however, the risks are greater. What are these risks?

[Ramadan] First, there can be no regular shipping in Shatt al-'Arab if Iran owns half of it. Furthermore, there is the question of sovereignty, which means a lot to us.

Second, if we were to contemplate giving the Arab brothers water from Shatt al-'Arab, it would require Iran's approval if it owned half of it.

Third, the passage of ships and tankers would, under the 1975 agreement, require joint convoys and pilots from boths sides. We suffered a lot as a result of this in the years before the war and tried to avoid it until the war broke out.

Fourth, and more importantly, why should Iran ask for half of Shatt al-'Arab when, historically, it does not belong to it? Does it need that part of Shatt al-'Arab for lack of other outlets to the sea? No. Iran has 1,200 km of sea coasts, but Shatt al-'Arab is our only outlet. If necessity is behind the request, then Iraq needs Shatt al-'Arab more than Iran. If, however, Iranian expansion and hegemony is the aim, then the time of expansion and hegemony is gone and has been replaced by understanding and co-existence between states.

[Na'na'] Since Rafsanjani's election as president and his assumption of power, has Iran shown any real desire, even secretly, to resume a dialogue with Iraq?

[Ramadan] Regrettably, there has been nothing, and we do not believe there will be any, because the Iranian political will for peace has not yet crystallized, because there is no strong leadership capable of settling the internal conflicts.

[Na'na'] Do you not believe the fact Rafsanjani assumed power with more than 90 percent support makes him a strong leader capable of controlling the conflicts?

[Ramadan] I do not assess Rafsanjani's strength on his receiving 90 percent. In the third world, the strength of leadership does not stem from voting percentages. There are many other considerations. As long as Iran is governed in the name of religion, the ability of Rafsanjani—who carries no religious weight—to settle the conflicts will remain in doubt.

[Na'na'] Do you believe the fact there are several centers of power in Iran prevents it from making a firm decision on its relations with Iraq?

[Ramadan] Yes, there is power struggle in Iran, and the issue of peace with Iraq constantly is being upstaged. The issue of Iraqi withdrawal has become a pretext. No one remembers or tries to remember withdrawal is part of a whole deal which must be implemented. Iraq is prepared fully to withdraw if all articles of the resolution are implemented.

The question is: Can Iran continue this way for long? Could its internal situation withstand it?

Iran is feeling the heavy burden of war, and it is paralyzed under the cover of continuous mobilization—this prevents it from tackling its economic situation. This increases Iran's burdens and causes further deterioration. It certainly does not equip Iran to start fighting again, if it wants to resume the fighting.

A human being has a certain capacity. Rest is important even when you want to resume a fight. Iran's constant state of mobilization is a result of the conflicts and rivalry between the internal power centers, because decisionmaking power has not been resolved yet, and new surprises are expected.

[Na'na'] Pending that, will Iraq continue to prepare for war, and at the same time, proceed with the reconstruction process?

[Ramadan] Yes, our faith in peace is not circumstantial or linked to a certain phase or to new rulers in Iran.

Resolution 598 is not an Iraqi resolution. It is a UN Security Council resolution to which we are committed. Until the situation in Iran becomes clear and ripe for its implementation, we will continue our reconstruction battle. However, if Iran contemplates blackmail or making gains outside the framework of the resolution, then that would be out of the question.

[Na'na'] Does Iran's stockpiling and purchase of more arms worry you?

[Ramadan] On the contrary. It is a good thing, because it spends its royalties on arms purchases, not on development, and that will turn Iran into a backward country. Iran was defeated not because of a lack of arms, but because the Iranian people were fed up and did not believe in continuing the fighting. The Iranian people lost faith in the war objectives declared by the Iranian leadership.

[Na'na'] Until the situation is resolved, Iraq continues to develop its arms and purchase more arms. Do the arms purchases and the military industrialization not affect the development programs in Iraq?

[Ramadan] As I have said before, from the outset the Iraqi leadership has acted on the assumption war could break out tomorrow and also on the assumption there would be permanent peace. This balance is calculated carefully by us on the basis of a program and lines of technical development. We have reduced the size of the Army, and we are about to demobilize some recruits and reservists, but at the same time we are strengthening the activities of the popular army formations. This will ease our burden and a greater proportion of our import requirements will be met by national industries. That will reduce the cost of our military requirements, which we used to import.

[Na'na'] Does this mean that the popular army will play a greater role, and that Iraq has succeeded in militarizing society so those demobilized from the Army become permanent reservists who can be absorbed into the military through the popular army at any moment?

[Ramadan] Yes, and that includes women. We have discussed this in the cabinet, and we now are discussing, on the basis of the experience of 8 years of war, what plan we should draw up for women in the event of a new war—which God forbid—with a view to granting women a greater and more important role. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Iraq has emerged triumphant from the war. That victory, which was costly to Iraq, also was a victory for the Arab nation, though the level of the Arab contribution was lower than desirable. Now that the guns are silent, you face post-war problems which are the natural result of the fiercest of wars. To observers, these results are: lethargy, a difficult economic situation, high prices unfamiliar to the Iraqis even in times of war, austerity, a ban on imports and travel, and debts. How do you plan to deal with this situation?

[Ramadan] Your anxiety regarding the signs you discern is legitimate, but let me point out that the negative aspects you have noticed, which partly are a result of the war, also exist in most countries of the world which have not been at war. Remedying them—which we are doing—will take time. Scientific analysis shows we now are in a difficult financial situation, but in a good economic situation. The financial situation is difficult because of lack of financial liquidity, which we experienced in the past. Our economic situation is good because we now have better economic foundations than in the past, and we have a greater capacity for exporting oil than before the war because of our many projects. Furthermore, we have economic projects which we never had before, such as the iron and steel, petrochemical, refining, and cement industries. At one time we used to import chemicals, now we export them; and the same thing applies to cement, and so on. [passage omitted]

Regarding debts, it is natural for us to have debts after 8 years of war. It is clear to everyone who deals with us that the cause of the debts was the war, not a fault in our economic structure or mismanagement. This is why all the states which deal with us in this connection have complete faith in the future of our economy and continue to deal with us, because they can see the future as clearly as they see the strength of the Iraqi economy.

[Na'na'] How much time will you need to overcome the financial crisis?

[Ramadan] We are proceeding with our strategic economic projects, particularly in industry. We will benefit to a large extent from faults in our previous programs exposed by the war. Regarding time needed to overcome the financial crisis, it will be 3-5 years, no more.

[Na'na'] What about the political aspect? The Iraqi leadership has for some time been talking about political pluralism, freedom of the press, and an amendment of the constitution. Have you formed a concept about plurality? What about the "leading party" slogan? Will it continue to lead? You yourself are chairman of the committee in charge of all this. What can you tell us? As far as the Iraqi leadership is concerned, is pluralism now a political conviction, or a necessity dictated by the circumstances of war?

[Ramadan] Talk of democracy and pluralism has been going on within the leadership for a long time—in greater depth since the formation of the first Iraqi National Assembly in 1980. When the term of the assembly expired, some people expressed the view that Iraq's being at war was sufficient justification not to hold new legislative elections, but we insisted on such elections with an advanced formula. We introduced some amendments to the National Assembly formula under war conditions. We raised the idea of plurality not as a tactic or a necessity dictated by war. We did so out of conviction. We have presented our intentions to the people. These intentions must be studied well and in depth, that is, they should be discussed as extensively as possible, just as in the case of constitional amendments and freedom of the press. After the discussions, the results will be drafted and submitted to the National Assembly for approval. A national referendum will be held on amendments to the constitution. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What about the future of the Ba'th Party?

[Ramadan] As a party, we believed, and still believe, that not everyone need be party members. It must remain a select party. Others have a right to choose their own political group after they reach a certain degree of maturity and clarity. It would not be an obstacle and would not be against national interests. On the contrary, it would activate the Ba'th Party and make it reconsider and renew its ways. The Ba'th Party needs competition to rejuvenate it and stop it from growing old, as in the case of the communist parties in Eastern Europe, where people became so fed up with their parties they began to change their names. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] At the pan-Arab level, does the Ba'th Party have the same concept of working methods as in the past? What is new?

[Ramadan] No. The new factor is the people of each Arab country can choose the suitable way to their own development. Anyone wishing to be a Ba'thist can be one. We in Iraq have chosen to be Ba'thists and have steered our experiment accordingly, but others do not necessarily have to do the same.

[Na'na'] In that case, is the presence of a party pan-Arab leadership in Iraq necessary?

[Ramadan] Yes, a party pan-Arab leadership is necessary, both in Iraq and anywhere else. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Your moves toward the establishment of the [Arab Cooperation Council] [ACC] appear to have been misunderstood by many observers, or, let us say, some neighboring Arab states, which were sensitive about it. They interpreted the council as the outcome of the Iraq-Iran war. In other words, Iraq emerged from its war with Iran as the first military power of the region, and after the war it started to look for a role. That role was embodied in the establishment of the ACC.

[Ramadan] Why does our move appear misunderstood? We are working within the Arab League framework. Since its establishment, we have been calling for economic cooperation and the establishment of a common market, but we have not succeeded in this. So if we have failed to establish such a market among 22 states, why do we not try to establish it among three or four states whose position is politically harmonious?

The council emerged as a result of a bilateral, trilateral, or quadrilateral dialogue between Iraq and the ACC members. The dialogue continued for many years, and in the end we decided to move from the bilateral dialogue to the quadrilateral dialogue. Eventually we developed working methods among us at the economic level. There can be no economic cooperation without a harmonious political position. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What about some Arab states' fears and sensitivities about that step?

[Ramadan] First, there is no reason for fear. We Ba'thists believe in unity, and our ideas and slogans are unionist. Fortunately, even the individuals who do not feel there is a need for Arab unity are compelled to raise this slogan. Iraq has not come up with anything new, and it is not looking for a role. Iraq is the same; it has not changed. Until now, we have failed to establish economic coordination via the Arab League because of the conflicting views of 22 states. Every time we tried to do so, we were faced with 22 temperaments and 22 views, even when it came to standardizing our traffic signs.

So why do we not try at a lower level, among four states which are harmonious in their political positions? So our working method within the council is to achieve what we are agreed on and shelve what is subject to disagreement until conditions ripen. Achievements will change reality and make our present differences open to discussion and solution in the future.

But I would like to emphasize that the objective of establishing the ACC is not to form a bloc against other Arab states. We are not aiming to establish blocs. The proof of this is that the council's doors have been left open to any Arab state wishing to join it.

Such a step is below our pan-Arab ambition and not even close to it, but is linked to the conditions and existing possibilities of the present stage. If we succeed, we will work to realize our ambition, even if it takes a long time. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] It has been noted each ACC member is trying to develop its bilateral relations with South Yemen, pending a surprise. The question is: Is there a decision not to accept two Yemens in the council, and are you awaiting unity steps between the two states so the united Yemen can become the group's fourth member?

[Ramadan] Once again I will not answer you diplomatically: There is no "temporary condition pending something." The council has not discussed South Yemen's admission or nonadmission to the group, and there is no veto to its admission. As for your saying the founding member states only will accept a united Yemen, that is premature.

As for my position, as a pan-Arab struggler, I hope the two countries will unite, because they actually are one country. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What would your position be if South Yemen were to submit a request tomorrow to join the ACC? Would its request be accepted or not?

[Ramadan] No, neither from it nor from any other state. We said before—and President Saddam Husayn has stressed—it will take some time before the group occupies its position and is understood by others. The council emerged as a result of a 10-year dialogue among the four states. Any new state joining the council will need a long time to understand us. As for developing our bilateral relations with South Yemen, it stems from Iraq's belief in opening relations with all Arab states. But the timetable and level of these relations depends on the nature of each country. I believe matters in South Yemen are proceeding democratically, but not with the desired enthusiasm.

[Na'na'] Asked about Syria's absence from the council, [Yemen Arab Republic Foreign MInister] Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said: It is a temporary absence, and the day will come when Syria takes its natural position in the council. What is your comment?

[Ramadan] I do not agree with dear Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani on that matter. I say the absence of every other Arab state—not only Syria—is temporary. I do not want to grant Syria a distinction similar to that which it enjoys in Lebanon and that which it is trying to secure in Iraq. As everyone probably knows, some people talk about special and exceptional relations between the two countries, but that is not so. I say the absence of any Arab state from the ACC is temporary, and the time will come and we all will be together. As for the claim the council is a bloc against someone, it is untrue. We do not pursue the policy of blocs or direct our work against anyone.

[Na'na'] How are your relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states today?

[Ramadan] Excellent.

[Na'na'] Do you intend to define the borders with Kuwait in the near future?

[Ramadan] Yes, in the near future.

[Na'na'] When?

[Ramadan] I do not know.

[Na'na'] Relations with Syria are the essence of your specialization, and observers say Iraq today pursues a realistic (restricted, pragmatic) policy with all Arab regimes, except Syria. In fact—and it is no longer a secret—camps were set up a few months ago to train the Syrian opposition in Iraq. A few months ago you entered the stage of violence between you and Syria in Lebanon. Does the realistic Iraqi policy not include the Syrian regime, and, if not, why not? Is there a specific objective directed against the regime behind the training of the opposition? And what is your position on relations with the Syrian regime today?

[Ramadan] Sometimes we look optimistic to people and say matters are good. But when we are on our own we say: What bad luck. Why do we do that? Because there no longer are any true criteria for establishing values. We deal with both good and evil with the same criterion. Arab policy cannot be assessed through relations with President Hafiz al-Asad. All laws and regulations stipulate one verdict for traitors, except in our age.

The word "treason," whether before or after Islam, has one meaning, that is, whoever backs a foreigner against his kinfolk and brothers is a traitor. And you know what punishment awaits the traitor. There is no such thing as low or high treason. "Brother" Hafiz al-Asad, Madam, had priorities with regard to treason and its scale. True, life has taught us flexibility, but there are lines that cannot be crossed.

If you had asked me that question 10 years ago—and I know you have good intentions—I would have quarreled with you. But regrettably, this Arab age has taught me to listen to such talk. But flexibility should, and must not be, at the expense of principled positions. We Iraqis would not hesitate to give any brother or friend an opportunity, and at the beginning we tried to give President al-Asad such an opportunity, proceeding from responsibility, realism, and our high confidence in our historic leadership. This is because no other leadership can shoulder that responsibility and act in this way.

Hafiz al-Asad backed our enemies right from the first day of the war. Despite this, in the 6th year the subject of a meeting with him was raised. If that meeting had been subjected to a popular referendum in Syria and Iraq, it would have been rejected. But the responsible historic leadership decided to carry out that task. So a 13-hour meeting was held between President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad at the H4 meeting in the Jordanian desert. After that meeting, we concluded if that man ever had possessed the smallest amount of loyalty and patriotism, even that no longer existed. There was a long estrangement between us. The H4 meeting reaffirmed our conviction. The Amman summit was held a year after the meeting, and the Arab and international positions on the Iraq-Iran war were crystallized. The Security Council issued Resolution 598 in response to international wishes. So we said: Let us give it a chance. The outcome was not only negative, but strengthened our belief that man opposes the nation's causes. At the Algiers summit—that is, after Iraq liberated Shalamjah [as transliterated] and al-Faw, and when the entire world was calling for an end to the war—President al-Asad voiced a reservation about a political statement by the summit on the Iraq-Iran war. I know many of Syria's sons were displeased by the opportunity we gave him; in fact, they consider it against them. However, as we said, we preferred to give him a chance. But he proved his treason beyond doubt.

[Na'na'] Some observers did not understand your position in Lebanon and your backing for General 'Awn. Your Excellency, it actually was interpreted—as I mentioned in previous interviews with Iraqi officials—as the result of a desire to settle accounts with the Syrian regime because of its position on the war. What also was not understood was your insistence on the Syrian Army's withdrawal from Lebanon, despite the fact Israeli forces occupy the south. How do you explain that, especially in view of the fact when General 'Awn raised the liberation war, he did not draw up a political reform program on which the various Lebanese factions could unite?

[Ramadan] If we act toward President Hafiz al-Asad on the basis of logic of retaliation and settling scores, no one will blame us at all. If I relent in my political position toward the regime in Syria, I never will relent over the blood shed by my peoples' sons. I have no right to do so. President al-Asad seriously contributed to the shedding of the blood of our Iraqi people's sons. I am no new prophet who says: "If someone hits me on one cheek, I will turn the other cheek," or "let bygones be bygones." That man's treason has not been confined to Iraq's sons: The Palestinian people have suffered badly at his hands, and so have the Lebanese people. He is a cancer in the Arab nation's body. He has fragmented Syria and perpetuated sectarianism in it with a view to spreading that disease in the nation's body. He tried it in Iraq, exactly as Iran and Israel did.

As for Lebanon, we have a principled position on the presence of the Syrian forces or any other foreign forces in Lebanon. Logic says the Syrian forces must withdraw first because they are Arab forces, in order to pool the Arab states' efforts and those of the other members of the international community to remove the Israeli forces. President al-Asad says: We will not withdraw before Israel withdraws. And Israel uses the Syrian forces' presence as an excuse to remain isolated from the international community's pressure. That position reflects a known, genuine tacit agreement between Israel and the Syrian regime.

We mentioned tist at the Casablanca summit, and we will not change our position. The Syrian forces' aims in Lebanon were known. The Syrian forces entered Lebanon not to protect one sect or another, but to partition Lebanon. The Syrian president is not an honest man. He cannot liberate the Golan, trying to to compensate for it in Lebanon, in an attempt to seize others' territory. The Lebanese issue was shelved until recently, and Hafiz al-Asad used to prevent it from being submitted at any Arab conference on the pretext he entered Lebanon to help the Muslims. The method he used drove the Christians toward Israel because they felt the Arabs did not support them. He prevented the Lebanese issue from being discussed at Arab summits, despite the presence of a legitimate president in Lebanon, namely, Amin al-Jumayyil. His objective was to prevent Arab backing for the Lebanese, and that is driving them toward Israel. So his aim clearly was to establish a Christian canton in order to hit the pan-Arab idea. The establishment of such a canton would affect the entire Arab cause. So how can we say Muslims and Arabs can protect the holy places of East Jerusalem and that co-existence among religions inside the one homeland is possible? The entire world would tell us that if such co-existence were possible, it would have materialized in Lebanon. At the al-Ta'if meeting, the deputies highlighted the Syrian regime's lie that the Lebanese cannot co-exist. This is because in just 3 days the deputies agreed on the political reform plan, while the security aspect concerning the Syrian presence on Lebanese territory remained subject to disagreement—which totally refutes the Syrian regime's claim.

[Na'na'] You have not answered my question about the training of the Syrian opposition. Has Iraq decided to escalate its confrontation with President Hafiz al-Asad, even if it leads to a military battle?

[Ramadan] I personally believe the struggling to topple the Al-Asad regime is the top of the pan-Arab struggle.

[Na'na'] Will you proceed with the battle until the end?

[Ramadan] I do not know. Personally, I will continue to the end, and I never will reconcile myself to that regime, even if one day there were a political reconciliation, which I rule out.

[Na'na'] What about the training of the Syrian opposition?

[Ramadan] Military training is another matter. There are citizens who are exhausted and must be energized. All the Iraqi people are being trained in the use of arms, so why not the Syrian opposition? They are training in all directions; the first course has been completed and the second is about to begin.

[Na'na'] Do the four ACC states adopt the same position toward the Syrian regime?

[Ramadan] Yes.

[Na'na'] That is strange. So how do you explain the Yemeni media's omission of passages on Syria from President Saddam Husayn's address to the council?

[Ramadan] By other reasons. Agreement on a unified political position is one thing, while applying and implementing it is another. Implementation and application depend on the level of courage. As for the principled position on the Syrian forces' presence or non-presence in Lebanon, the council states are agreed in that regard.

[Na'na'] What is the status of your relations with the Soviet Union after the period of coolness that followed Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow and the conclusion of trade and military agreements? Have the Soviets clarified their position sufficiently? Was Iraq convinced by that clarification?

[Ramadan] Our relations with the Soviet Union are good, there is no coolness, and the Soviet Union is a friendly state.

[Na'na'] Despite its cooperation with Iran?

[Ramadan] Even if cooperation exists between it and Iran. We have no objection to it. Our objection is to any step taken at Iraq's expense before the war ends.

[Na'na'] Does what you said about your relations with the Soviet Union apply to your relations with the United States, and can the United States be said to be a friendly state?

[Ramadan] I do not hesitate to say the Soviet Union is a friendly state. As for relations with the United States, I can say they are cordial. I do not have much faith in the undeclared U.S. stances toward Iraq, but I hope these doubts will be eliminated one day.

[Na'na'] What is Iraq's position on the Palestinian diplomatic move? As you can see, the talks with the United States have reached an impasse and Egypt's 10 queries about the elections in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem have been reduced by Washington to five points in order for Shamir to completely abolish.

[Ramadan] Any political dialogue without strength behind it will lead to nothing, because it conflicts with realism. Realism means not speaking from inside a vacuum. We know the PLO has justifications for its move. The move was made under the power of the intifadah [uprising]. But if you ask me whether the intifadah alone is sufficient to force Israel to make concessions, or whether there must be a new Arab condition alongside the intifadah in order to achieve something so the dialogue will produce something in our favor, I would say the Arab potential still has not taken its natural position as a force exerting pressure on the other side so the dialogue can achieve the minimum objectives. [passage omitted]

But if you ask me about the future and the results, I will tell you that to secure positive results there must be a new Arab position. Today Israel does not feel any pressure or threats from Syria. Besides, Syria is in disagreement with Iraq, and the Iraq-Iran war has not ended. This situation does not pose any real threats to Israel. But if it felt the Arabs are in a strong position—a position that would enable them to destroy it—it would have hastened to make concessions regarding the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem out of concern for its existence. That explains the joint initiative between the Ba'th Party and the PLO to establish a broad front to support the intifadah. This is because there are international conspiracies against it designed to destroy it. If the intifadah is destroyed, there will be no hope for a long time.

[Na'na'] Did President Husni Mubarak inform you at the ACC of the 10 questions he put to Israel, or the invitation of the Palestinians and the Israelis to hold direct talks in Cairo?

[Ramadan] No, it was not mentioned.

[Na'na'] So what is your view of the Egyptian steps?

[Ramadan] I do not know. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Committee Urges POW Exchange

JN0612120689 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6, INA—Iraq's human rights committee has appealed to the international public opinion to urge the Iranian regime for an immediate and overall exchange of all prisoners of Iraq-Iran war (POW's) and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In a statement to INA marking the 41st anniversary of the world declaration of human rights due on Sunday, chairman of the committee Riyad 'Aziz said that Iraq's humanitarian calls for a comprehensive swap of POW's came in line with Article 118 of the 3rd Geneva Convention of 1949. He stressed that those appeals underlined Iraq's steady policy for realising peace between the two countries and in the region at large.

He went on saying that this occasion should be a good opportunity to confirm solidarity of the international community with the Palestinian people, being subject to genocide and atrocities by the Zionist entity. The Iraqi official called on the international community to denounce the Zionist entity's inhumanitarian practices and oppression against the Palestinian people.

Press Cited on Iranian Naval Maneuvers, POW's

JN0612120089 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad described naval manoeuvres to be staged by Iran in the northern Arab Gulf as part of creating atmosphere of tension in the region and tendency to play with fire.

A daily article here today said that similar Iranian manoeuvres carried out two months ago created unnecessary climates of tension and went in contrary to the desire of the region peoples to live in peace and stability.

It pointed out that among objectives of Iranian rulers are the desire to harp on military demonstrations for preoccupying Iranian peoples from the desire to reconstruct damages left by the war.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that manoeuvres of Iran rulers do not confine to military demonstration but rather coincide with their political manoeuvres represented in their determination to link the question of comprehensive repatriation of prisoners of war with the stalled political negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

It concluded by saying that Iranian rulers do not want to educate their peoples on the spirit of peace and live with neighbouring peoples in peace and resort to the course of mutual respect and good neighbourhood and non-interference in the internal affairs.

AL-THAWRAH daily questioned that if peace in the region could be achieved only through Iraq and Iran agreement, then how Iraq should behave if the Iranian regime continued procrastination and manoeuvring in rejecting the commitment to international laws and charters.

The daily said that the Iranian regime's linking between the question of POW's and withdrawal clearly discloses the opportunist nature of this regime which is insisting on using scores of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian POW's as a card for cheap bargaining in the political negotiations for realising illegal objectives.

The daily stressed that course of Iraq was that of peace and had always expressed that in words and action and embodied it in human and peaceful initiative for the restoration of lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Sudanese Official Confers With Ramadan 6 Dec

JN0612145289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and head of the NSRCC's Economic Commission, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the Sudanese official conveyed the greetings of NSRCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn. He also affirmed that Sudan, the leaders and the people, takes pride in Iraq's pan-Arab positions and also in the president's earnest desire to see Sudan attain national unity.

The first deputy prime minister asked the Sudanese official to convey similar greetings from His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to his brother NSRCC Chairman 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and Iraq's desire to see the Sudanese people's unity realized and Sudan's territorial integrity safeguarded.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also affirmed the importance attached by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the realization of security in fraternal Sudan. He also reiterated that the president believes efforts must continue to bolster its unity and security which is an indivisible part of the pan-Arab security.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0612155389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and his delegation left Baghdad this evening following a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Sudanese official paid tribute to President Saddam Husayn's pan-Arab policy toward Sudan.

The Sudanese official was seen off at the airport by Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Revolution Command Council.

PLO Group Arrives for Intifadah Support Meetings

JN0612193089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] A Palestinian delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening to attend meetings of the preparatory committee, formed by the Arab popular front to support the Palestinian intifadah, due to begin in Baghdad on Friday, the day after tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani, who is heading the delegation, expressed his pleasure at attending the committee meetings being held in Baghdad, thanks to the initiative taken in this regard by both the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the PLO. He added that a large number of Arab parties and figures are taking part in these meetings to prepare the announcement of the launching of this front at a time when the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah is entering its 3d year.

Al-Hurani went on to say: With great optimism, we are looking forward to achieving an effective and serious Arab contribution to support the intifadah, and to provide it with the political, financial, and informational support needed to allow for its continuation and also to bolster the feats of heroism being displayed by the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland.

The PLO official expressed the hope that these meetings will serve as a prelude to an expanded participation by all Arab parties and forces in this endeavor.

Envoys to Cuba, Vietnam, PRC Meet With Saddam

JN0612195489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received the Iraqi ambassadors to the socialist bloc states of Cuba, Vietnam, and the PRC. The meeting lasted for more than 3 hours.

During the meeting they discussed developments currently under way in the socialist bloc states in East Europe and their many repercussions on the international and Arab scenes. His excellency the president gave the ambassadors instructions to be complied with to bolster Iraq's foreign relations with these states and also with other world states, in accordance with the principles of its foreign policy, its national interests, and higher pan-Arab interests.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industries, also attended.

Confer With 'Aziz

JN0612145589 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] At noon today, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions accredited to socialist bloc states, Vietnam, Cuba, and the PRC.

During the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the outlines of Iraq's foreign policy and its principled and firm relations with various world states. The minister also touched on the recent developments and changes currently taking place in Europe and other countries and their repercussions on Arab issues in general and the Palestine question in particular.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and several department heads at the ministry.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran

JN0612092289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran.

Egypt's Reply to Plan Still Being 'Interpreted'

TA0712090089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens this morning held their first consultation on Egypt's reply to the Baker plan. The two have not yet decided whether this reply should be interpreted as positive or negative. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman updates us on the issue:

Finally, the the prime minister and foreign minister have held their first consultation on how to interpret the Egyptian reply given yesterday to the United States. The reply Israel has received, as given last night by U.S. Ambassador William Brown to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, includes only one part of the Egyptian reply: the official part that provides the Egyptian yes. The other part, the one that deals with the guarantees the PLO is asking—the assumptions—was not given to Israel. The Americans believe that it is not Israel's concern.

The prime minister and the foreign minister discussed the issue for over an hour. They had to stop because of the prime minister's prior engagements. It has been decided, however, that additional discussions will be held. They have not yet thoroughly read it, and it was decided that they will continue to discuss it on the phone later today, and perhaps tomorrow as well. In any case, the prime minister's and the foreign minister's offices expect that in the next few days, perhaps early next week, Israel will be able to supply an official reply to the document and convey it to the Americans, and go on to the next stages, which are discussing the assumptions and the tripartite foreign ministers meeting.

Egyptian Reply to Baker Plan Draws Responses

Rabin Sees 'Positive Response'

TA0612211589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1936 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoram Ronen, military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, and political correspondent Yig'al Goren within special "Moqed" program entitled "Two Years to the Intifadah"—live in the studio]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and my colleagues Yig'al Goren and Moshe Shlonsky. I would like to start with your reaction to Egypt's positive response to the Baker initiative. Are you pleased with this response? Did you expect a positive response?

[Rabin] I consider the Egyptian positive response a great step forward toward the implementation of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. We brought the Americans to lead the process, as evidenced in Baker's five points, whose purpose is to enable an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo to launch the process. Now that Egypt has joined Israel in giving its positive response, all obstacles have been removed. Israel need not go through the Egyptian response with a fine-tooth comb, just as we will not allow Egypt to do the same with our answer. Now that there is an Egyptian positive response, we should proceed to set the meeting of the three foreign ministers, whose role will be to decide how the Palestinian delegation will be made up and what the agenda of the dialogue will be.

[Ronen] But you welcome the Egyptian response in principle?

[Rabin] I welcome it because I consider it a great, positive step forward.

[Goren] Mr Defense Minister, do you foresee a possibility that despite the fact that the United States considers the Egyptian response positive—it is saying as much to the entire world—it may be construed otherwise in Israel, to the point of preventing the meeting in Cairo?

[Rabin] I find such a possibility quite inconceivable, as I have from the moment the Americans announced that the Egyptians have accepted in principle the five points with assumptions and clarifications, just as we accepted them. Therefore, what has to be done is clarify the rest of the points, with the basis of the meeting being acceptance in light of Baker's five points.

[Shlonsky] Mr Defense Minister, you speak about the meeting in Washington [as heard], but the problems might begin here at home with the agenda and the composition of the Palestinian delegation. For instance, will you favor the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni, who was issued a confinement order today, as a member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks?

[Rabin] First of all, I personally approved the confinement order as part of our way of dealing with the intifadah's violent terror activities. As to who will be a member of the delegation, we will discuss that in due time.

[Shlonsky] In your opinion, can Faysal al-Husayni be a member?

[Rabin] We will discuss that in due time.

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, the political process seems to be gaining momentum now. Should this mean, perhaps, that we are in for turmoil in our internal politics? The constraints ministers will object, the Likud may be opposed, and there might be a crisis between the Alignment and the Likud. Do you foresee such developments?

[Rabin] I very much hope that the government will remain faithful to its resolution accepting in principle Baker's five points. The moment Egypt gave its positive response—and it is Egypt that is our partner to the process, together with the United States—there was no reason for the meeting of the foreign ministers not to take place.

[Shlonsky] Mr Defense Minister, with your permission, we will now move to the question of the intifadah, which is the reason we invited you to our studio. What do you say to soldiers in the field who tell you: We will do our military job, but we expect politicians to work on a political solution; 2 years have passed and hardly anything has changed. What do you tell soldiers in the field?

[Rabin] It is easier for me today to give a response to the soldiers, and this is what I tell them: Since 14 May 1989, the Israeli Government has had a comprehensive twofold policy, whose political component is the peace initiative. The meaning of this initiative is that we are telling Palestinians in the territories: We have been in a confrontation with you; let us move from confrontation to dialogue; the solution can only be found around the negotiating table.

The second component of the initiative is to continue to improve on the achievements made by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories during the fulfillment of its mission, and very simply tell the Palestinians: You will not chase us away with stones and firebombs; you will not make us budge even one inch from our political positions in anything pertaining to the way we get from the current situation to a permanent solution in accordance with the government's initiative. The military activities complement the political activities, just as the political activities help the military activities as far as the Palestinians are concerned. We are not pushing them into a corner and telling them to surrender without any preconditions. We are telling them there is a solution around the negotiating table based on the Israeli peace initiative.

[Shlonsky] Sir, at the outset of the intifadah, senior army commanders stationed in those areas said that the solution is not just military, but there is also a political solution. At a certain point, you forbade them to come out with such statements. Why did you do that, seeing that you are saying exactly the same thing now; namely, that the solution is twofold: military and political? The fact of the matter is that you have not, to date, given an instruction to quell the intifadah.

[Rabin] Look, the ultimate responsibility for overall policy lies with the Cabinet, which is to say the echelon elected democratically. The mission given to the IDF—and I was the one who issued that order—has never been to annihilate the intifadah, because I do not believe in demagoguery. All the fancy words—words like annihilation, elimination, and uprooting—we have seen, in other places, how far all those high and mighty talkers have gotten! The mission entrusted to the IDF, as I defined it, was as follows: to lower the level of violence to the point of calm, albeit not an ideal level of calm, as this can never be achieved, and never existed; and to allow the governing systems, which is to say the Civil Administration and the local government, to function in a reasonable fashion for the good of the population. I believe that we have made progress on our way to attaining this mission, although we have not yet fully achieved it. As a result, the army should be judged against the backdrop of its activity of attempting to attain the goal within the confines of the constraints imposed on it, the only constraint being the law.

[Goren] Mr Rabin, in the course of the intifadah, the Jordanian option was in fact canceled. A political process was launched, its goal being the Arabs of the territories. Can you envision a scenario that would allow a dialogue with the Arabs of the territories while neutralizing the PLO completely, even though Egypt has been engaged in a direct dialogue with it—particularly during the past few weeks—in an effort to provide an answer on its behalf to the United States?

[Rabin] Look, contrary to many statements made by all sorts of elements, from the moment the peace initiative became Israel's departure point, an accelerated political process began in the Middle East. The Cabinet made its decision on 14 May; President Mubarak came out with his 10 points in early July; in mid-August the United States asked Egypt to join the process. We are currently in the midst of a political process whose leaders are the three partners to the Camp David agreements. The target address is the inhabitants of the territories. As to whom they consult, that I do not care about, as long as they are the address and we have elections in which a representation is elected by them, of them, to fulfill the central role in the negotiations. After all, everything that will take place before these negotiations will be merely a dialogue, a discussion, while the real negotiations will begin with the elected representation.

[Ronen] In fact, we are engaged in an indirect dialogue with the PLO, perhaps through Egyptian or U.S. mediation, though.

[Rabin] Look, I do not care with whom each one of the partners talks. At present, the United States, Egypt, and Israel participate in the process, and it is each side's own affair to whom it talks. The goal is to have elections in the context of a political process, as described in the Cabinet's initiative, whose principles derive from the Camp David accords to which the three countries I mentioned are committed. Therefore, I regard it as a positive development. The goal shared by us, the United States, and Egypt is to find a representation that will be elected democratically by the largest Palestinian subcategory. Of the 3.5 million Palestinians living in Israel, the territories, and Jordan, this is the only population that has no elections; 2 million Palestinians do have a vote. They are those who live in Israel as citizens of Israel and those who live in Jordan as Jordanian citizens.

[Ronen] Mr Minister, you recently noted with satisfaction the dramatic changes occurring in the world, particularly in Eastern Europe, but you did not include the Palestinians in this process. Do you share THE NEW YORK TIMES editorial's view which sees a clear analogy between the Eastern European liberation movements and Palestinian calls for political independence?

[Rabin] I will be very happy if the Palestinians in the territories demand the democratic process of elections by them and of them to enter into a dialogue with us. This is the purpose of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. Let us hope that what is happening in Eastern Europe, as well as the desire for democracy and a greater ability to manifest the individual's desires free of internal terrorism, will occur here as well. But you see, 136 Palestinians have been killed by their brethren between the outbreak of the intifadah and 15 November—118 of them during the 10 and ½ months of 1989 alone. Internal terrorism has increased because they have failed to force the Palestinian public to come out and demonstrate—though not in a happy demonstration—on 15 November; they have likewise failed to lure them into engaging in violent activity. They can hardly maintain sufficient discipline to observe the strikes and keep the shops closed. Moreover, if internal terrorism had not increased, it is doubtful whether they would have been able to sustain even this.

[Goren] Mr Rabin, do you think that the incumbent government, which initiated the peace plan or the election plan, will indeed succeed in promoting the process to the point of holding the meeting in Cairo and will ultimately make it possible to hold elections in the territories?

[Rabin] I believe that if the development indeed takes shape as planned, and the possibility—I think it is virtually a certainty—for a meeting of the three foreign ministers is high; and if indeed we abide by the spirit and the word of the peace initiative, it will be possible to have a dialogue between two delegations in Cairo, thereby paving the road for progress in accordance with the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Ronen] Do you foresee a 3d year of the intifadah? Is time working in our favor?

[Rabin] I believe that time is working in our favor under the present circumstances. I think that we have succeeded in a bitter struggle that has continued for more than a year and amid sharp clashes to effect some fundamental changes in the intifadah: There is no longer mass popular participation in violence, with the exception of stonings—60 percent of which are carried out by children up to the age of 13, and which account for 85 percent of all the violent phenomena in the territories. There is no longer talk....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] But there is also the presence of 10,000 troops in the territories.

[Rabin] There is no more talk about a civil revolt, and all these attempts have failed. I believe there is weariness in the territories and that, if it were not for the terrorism that outside elements are attempting to foment, most of the residents of the territories would like to see a political process launched. It is my belief that the proper combination of the political and the military-defense angles, and with an improvement and progress in both these areas, we will reach the beginning of a political process from an Israeli standpoint of strength.

[Ronen] We would like to thank Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and are forced to end our expanded program on the 2d anniversary of the intifadah here. We wish to thank all those who contributed to this program and who helped us mount it. Good evening, and see you again.

Peres Discusses PLO Demands

TA0712065389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] Do you consider the Egyptian answer to be unequivocally positive?

[Peres] First of all, why should you use the word unequivocally? If it is positive, that is enough. Compare this to a situation in which the United States says that the response was negative. In politics we have to act according to the alternatives. In my opinion, had the United States interpreted the Egyptian response as negative, the alternative would have been to take the issue to the U.S.-Soviet level. Would that have been better?

[Golan] But Mr Peres, problems cropped up as a result of the PLO's demand to play a public, central role in the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The PLO also demanded that the dialogue's agenda remain open and not deal solely with the election modalities. Has this practical problem been solved by the Egyptian reply in a way that would allow the United States to view it as positive and that would promote the process?

[Peres] Look, there is a difference between what the PLO demands and what it is granted. The PLO may demand anything it can think of. We were already told in the five points that Israel will not have to negotiate with the PLO. This issue is not in question at all.

[Qital] Are we not, in fact, negotiating with the PLO, when what is happening is that Egypt is talking to the PLO and getting its approval for each and every answer?

[Peres] All I want to say is that the formal aspect is important as well. The way I see it, the Palestinian delegation may consult whomever it chooses. It may talk to Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi, Al-Asad, or anyone it chooses in the Arab world. What we are saying is that we are willing to conduct negotiations with a Palestinian delegation. Our problem is that Jordan should have been a partner for negotiations; we should have reached a joint position with them. This time, we must take a stand that creates a partner for negotiations. There is no second party for negotiations at this stage.

[Golan] Does it not bother you, Mr Peres, that on the Palestinian side, at a certain stage of negotiations, the PLO would emerge as a partner and we will have to negotiate with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] Wait a minute! The PLO will not pop up all of a sudden like that. It cannot do that. The negotiations will be held with a Palestinian delegation—the composition of which we would agree to—and with it alone. This delegation will not be able to multiply.

[Qital] Where does the issue of the Palestinian delegation stand now? At the time, there was a debate on whether....

[Peres, interrupting] In my opinion, the issue at this stage focuses on when they want to add one or two deportees to the delegation. I do not see that as a disaster of any kind, nor am I very thrilled by it. In any case, the central issue that cannot be ignored is that there are two sides to the negotiations that do not live in peace with each other.

The disagreement is on two issues, not one: First is the very question of who is the second party; it should be created at this stage. Presently we are busy with the attempt to create a second side for the negotiations.

The second issue is the other side's position, which contradicts ours. If we fail to understand this, we will have nothing to talk about. We are meeting because we have no understanding between us.

There is yet another important issue: We cannot elect the other side's delegation. They have to do it themselves. We cannot dictate our positions to the other side. It has positions of its own.

[Golan] You would not be bothered if the Palestinian delegation includes a deportee, or more than one. The prime minister is bothered by it, and will not accept it. Incidentally, do you see a possibility that Foreign Minister Arens will refuse an invitation to go to Washington because of internal Likud debates, such as those posed by the constraints ministers?

[Peres] This is inconceivable! At this stage the United States is the mediator. There was once a U.S. secretary of state who openly said that negotiations could only be held in the background of constructive ambiguity [preceding two words in English], because if you try to go over every detail or issue in a dispute, there would be no negotiations. We are all adults. We understand very well that we are going to hold negotiations with a side that is different than ours, with positions not similar to ours. What we, Egypt, and the Palestinians agree to—and this should not be taken lightly—is that the United States should serve as an honest broker. This honest broker says: I have received a positive reply from Egypt. Now I want to ask the three foreign ministers to meet. Why not? What are we afraid of? What could happen in this tripartite foreign ministers meeting?

[Qital] I would like to address this from an angle more oriented toward internal politics. Can you envision the Likud and the Alignment going along and moving forward with this initiative as it is presented today?

[Peres] The Alignment is unequivocal on this issue. It is going along with this peace initiative. Let me tell you: This is not at all similar to what we have experienced in the past in political maneuvers in Israel where every office was up for grabs. This time the Alignment is not aiming at portfolios or positions; we are interested in our central goal of existence in a world that has changed drastically. We are heading toward a peace process. I would not want to guess what the Likud position will be. In any case, I am certain that it logically follows that whoever said that we are willing to go for elections in the territories—and the Likud did. [incomplete sentence as heard] Incidentally, those who are elected in the territories will not be straightforward Zionists. There is no way to guarantee that those elected in the territories will have softer or different positions than those of the PLO; let us not fool ourselves. But if we opt for elections, let us do so wholeheartedly. There is no point in stopping every now and then to look back and see whether we can move forward.

Let me tell you, we must go for it. The United States' conduct on the issue has been exemplary. Look at its stand on the various UN propositions. It clearly told the United Nations: If the PLO is accepted, we will stop supporting the United Nations. Look at its conduct on the issue of the PLO's changing its UN status. It said no. Observe the way it handled 'Arafat's intention to visit the United States. It hinted to him that he would be better off not applying for a visa. So really, we do not have another United States—and it could change as well, if we choose to collide with it, which would be a major mistake. We cannot fight the rest of the world.

[Qital] I thank you very much, Mr Peres, and thank you, our political correspondent Arye Golan.

[Peres] Thank you, and shalom.

Olmert Interviewed on Response

TA0712072189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with Minister Ehud Olmert by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Minister Olmert.

[Olmert] Good morning.

[Friedman] So now we hear that Washington has officially announced through the State Department spokeswoman that the Egyptian response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan is positive. From the details you already know—and I understand that Israel has received only a short briefing on the major issues—how would you describe the Egyptian answer?

[Olmert] I do not think that we should deal in definitions. I still have not received all the details. At any rate, the test of the Egyptian response will be in its implementation throughout the dialogue the United States wants to convene. In other words, in this case the preliminaries are totally irrelevant. The question is whether the Egyptians understand that Israel is not willing and will not agree to negotiate with the PLO. The question is whether the Egyptians understand that the process, as we understand it, is a process that deals solely with the implementation of the prime minister's initiative and not with anything else. The Egyptians also must understand that this is an issue that can finally be evaluated, above and beyond all the adjectives, only according to its actual implementation.

[Friedman] In actual fact, Egypt has given its yes to the revised Baker initiative, which does not mention the name of the PLO even once, with Israeli pressure on the United States playing no small role in this revision. Does this fact increase the chances of a positive development in the situation?

[Olmert] Look, I would be very leery of getting involved in all kinds of generalizations at this stage. In contrast to the decision of the Israeli Government—which is an unequivocal, strictly worded document with a beginning, middle, and end with which one can agree or disagree, but cannot mistake its meaning—the Egyptian answer, we can gather from all kinds of reports, is not so clear. Therefore, I would be very careful in voicing any opinion or making any evaluations.

[Mardor] In any case, do you believe Israel should participate in the next step, which is a meeting of the foreign ministers in Washington?

[Olmert] In principle, Israel has agreed to participate in such negotiations, and in a meeting of this kind, within the framework of the implementation of the prime minister's peace initiative. We still have not received an official invitation from the United States, while the wording of this invitation and the suggested basis for the meeting still remain unclear. I assume that the invitation that Secretary of State Baker eventually sends will correspond to the issues Israel and the United States agree upon in the Baker five-point plan regarding what are known to be Israel's red lines. Therefore, I can expect a situation to develop that will enable the foreign minister's departure. I would like to stress, however, that these are only assumptions and assessments, because we have not yet discussed the official version of the Egyptian response, nor the formulation of the U.S. invitation.

[Friedman] I understand that it is also difficult to ask questions without the full text in front of us or even leaked to the press...

[Olmert, interrupting] I would like to say that I share your distress on this matter.

[Friedman] At any rate, there is some sort of leak in today's YEDI'OT AHARONOT regarding the assumptions the Egyptians attached to their response. Have you had an opportunity to look at it? I believe it came from Washington.

[Olmert] No. The clarifications may come from Washington, but the reports must first get from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and this met with some difficulties this morning.

[Friedman] Let me read you a brief version of this item, and I will ask for your comment, because we are still at the hypothetical stage. The first assumption states that the Palestinian delegation would represent all Palestinians, both those living in the territories and those living abroad. The second Palestinian assumption that has been leaked says that the agenda for the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will be open, in accordance with the original draft of the five points. The third assumption, according to the same report, is that the dialogue on the process of elections will be considered a first step toward the continuation of the process, which will eventually lead to the convening of an international conference, and so on and so forth. You know the formulations. If these assumptions are indeed pegged to the Egyptian response, would this change your opinion of the Egyptian response?

[Olmert] I must say that these assumptions do not surprise me. They do not sound at all new. I have heard similar formulations in recent weeks. The question is less the way in which Egypt qualifies its response than the understanding with the United States on the framework of the discussions and their fundamental parameters. At this stage, therefore, I would not cling to any formula, even if in retrospect it transpires that the Egyptian formula is correct or, in other words, that this is what the Egyptians really said. But the issue is not what the Egyptians say, but rather what will be an acceptable binding framework for the three parties.

[Mardor] If this is the Egyptian position right now, can Israel go on from here? That is the question: Whether Arens can participate in a meeting in Washington under these conditions?

[Olmert] I would like to emphasize, and I see that you are trying....

[Friedman, interrupting] ...to get a clear answer....

[Mardor, interrupting] ...because your answer is so general, and we are trying to get down to details.

[Olmert] I'm okay, and you're okay. What I am saying is that we are not faced with a situation in which everything will be frozen until the meeting between Israel, Egypt, and the United States, scheduled for approximately 1 month from now, takes place, with no discussions or reviews in the interim. This is not the situation. Therefore, when you tell me that there is or is not some kind of formula that is certainly not acceptable to us at face value, this does not mean that this will be the formulation that will serve as a basis for the meeting. With all due respect, the basis for the meeting is not an Egyptian formula, but the invitation as worded and put together by the host—that is, the United States.

[Friedman] Well, we have been given a lesson in diplomacy. Thank you, Minister Ehud Olmert.

Egyptian 'Assumptions' Based on PLO Decision

TA0712085089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Dec 89 p 1, 14

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal, Orly Azulay-Katz, and Smadar Peri]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent has learned that the three "assumptions" attached to Egypt's response to Secretary of State Baker's five-point plan are based on a decision made by the PLO Executive Committee in Baghdad, and stipulate the following:

—The Palestinian delegation will represent all the Palestinians, including those living inside and outside the occupied territories.

—The agenda of the Israeli-Palestinian agenda will remain open, in accordance with the original version of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's five-point proposal.

—The dialogue on the election process will be considered a first step toward a continuation of the process that will lead to the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all relevant parties, including Israel and the PLO. [passage omitted]

In Jerusalem, differences between the Likud and the Labor Party regarding the Egyptian response were already becoming apparent last night:

In the Likud, sources in the Prime Minister's Bureau said last night that the bureau does not consider Egypt's answer a positive response.

Political sources close to the Prime Minister's Bureau claimed last night that Egypt had deleted the key phrase in its response by not stating that it accepts Baker's five points, but only that it is willing to continue acting on the basis of the points. The sources added that the prime minister does not accept the reference Egypt made to the PLO response to the Baker plan. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 7 December in a Menahem Shalev report on pages 1 and 12 adds: "Sources in Jerusalem noted that the PLO's conditional "agreement to deal with" Baker's formula relates to the original, unamended version of the plan, while Egypt's can be construed as relating to the modified version that was made public officially for the first time in Washington last night. This point is likely to figure in the arguments of those in the Likud who favour a continuation of the peace process."]

Spokesman Claims U.S. Newspaper Misquoted Rabin

TA0712103989 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 6 Dec 89

["Communicated by the Defense Ministry spokesman"—GPO subslug]

[Text] In reports published in THE NEW YORK TIMES today (Wednesday), 6.12.89, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was quoted as saying that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had failed in its mission of calming the uprising.

The defense ministry spokesman wishes to make clear that the defense minister did not make this statement to THE NEW YORK TIMES. What he said is that the IDF has not yet achieved its mission of bringing about quiet in the territories.

As for the defense minister's comments that were quoted in THE NEW YORK TIMES on the use of means for calming the uprising, he meant that the means at the IDF's disposal have not changed.

Al-Husayni Banned From Entering Territories

Receives Order 6 Dec

TA0612121389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has issued an order forbidding Faysal al-Husayni from traveling outside Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that policemen who arrived at his residence this afternoon handed him the order.

The order, which is valid for 6 months, states that it was decided to restrict Faysal al-Husayni's freedom of movement after the commander of the Central Command became convinced that this was necessary for the cause of public welfare.

Earlier Report Clarified

TA0612132789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] It has now emerged that, contrary to an earlier report, Faysal al-Husayni has been forbidden to visit the territories rather than to leave Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum has been told by the police that Faysal al-Husayni received two orders: one signed by the commander of the Central Command and one signed by the commander of the Southern Command. The orders state that the two commanders decided to forbid Al-Husayni from visiting the territories after they were persuaded that this was essential to preserve public welfare and order. The orders will remain in effect for 6 months.

Newspapers Criticize U.S. Actions at UN

U.S. 'Blackmail' Denounced

TA0412114089 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Dec 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Washington's Threats and Lost Credibility"]

[Text] The threats uttered by Washington this week against the United Nations and the future of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue—with their implications of negative positions toward the Palestinian people—reaffirm the loss of Washington's credibility to play the role of a peace mediator in the Middle East and place large question marks over Washington's real intentions regarding a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The U.S. State Department confirmed that Washington will cease payment of its financial quota to the United Nations if the General Assembly, which is debating the Palestinian problem, decides to upgrade the PLO's status to that of an observer state. Washington also threatened to withdraw from FAO [UN Food and Agricultural Organization] if the resolution on supplying aid to the farmers of the occupied Palestinian territories was approved. For his part, the U.S. delegate, Thomas Pickering, warned that the PLO's insistence on its demand threatened the future of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and peace efforts in the region.

Since the UN's inception, the United States has become accustomed to exploiting the UN's need of the U.S. obligatory financial contributions, the "veto" right, and hints of various kinds of threats to impose its political positions, bearing in mind that U.S. financial contributions are a commitment dictated by the UN Charter.

The nations of the world rejected the U.S. threats and approved by a decisive majority the resolution on providing technical assistance to the farmers of the occupied territories and dispatching a UN delegation to study the agricultural and water situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the Arab bloc did not pay any heed to the U.S. threats when it decided to press on with its proposal concerning the upgrading of the PLO's membership status.

The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which Washington is trying to use today as a means of intimidation, was never a goal by itself or a gift that Washington presented the Palestinian people on a silver platter. To remind the United States, PLO officials on various occasions have expressed their readiness to study the possibility of ending this dialogue because of increasing indications that it lacks any substantive content. There are also indications that this dialogue is confined to formalities and has not achieved any progress because of stagnating U.S. positions, although almost a year has passed since this dialogue was launched. Furthermore, since the outset, the PLO has viewed this dialogue as a means for advancing toward a just settlement of the Palestinian problem. No one had the illusion that this dialogue would mean opening the doors that are ajar to peace.

To remind Pickering, what threatens peace efforts in the region is neither the will of the international community nor the General Assembly's resolutions. Rather, it is Washington's policy, which continues to resist international legitimacy and ignores the Palestinian people's rights. Peacemaking cannot be achieved through pressures and political blackmail.

Once again, there is a vast difference between talking about peace and the real ingredients necessary for its achievement. If Washington wants to prove its credibility as a peace mediator, it has to take into consideration the interests of all parties to the conflict, including the rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

Actions Called 'Unjustifiable'

TA0512143589 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 4 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Unjustified Confrontation"]

[Text] Should the PLO enter into a confrontation with the United States over its status at the United Nations? Because the United States chose the confrontation and forced it on the PLO, the PLO should resist all it can. Was the PLO right to ask the UN General Assembly to give Palestine state-observer status, even though this request sparked the confrontation with the United States? Absolutely.

When the PLO announced that it would ask the UN to upgrade its status from organization-observer to state-observer, it was simply seeking to legitimize the declaration of statehood it made last year. Winning legitimacy is important to the PLO and the Palestinian people at large because that means enhancement of their status as a nation-state, although the state is still under illegal occupation.

The PLO did not seek confrontation; rather, the United States did, and for no legitimate reason. We do not understand why the United States, and only the United States, is making a special crusade of fighting the PLO wherever it is and whatever it does, even though what the PLO is doing is in the best interest and welfare of an entire nation and does not bring harm to anyone. All the PLO was asking for was recognition of Palestine as an observer state. It was not asking for full membership as a state for the United States to come out so strongly against the Palestinian resolution.

The United States is claiming that the PLO's request was a political one and turned therefore the UN and its agencies into a political battleground. But what can be said about the United States' blackmail of the UN by withholding all financial support if the UN changes the PLO's status? Isn't this move more political than the PLO's?

The United States' action is simply unjustifiable. It is this action that hurts the peace process in the Middle East, not the PLO's, as the United States claims. When the United States takes such a hostile position toward the PLO and the Palestinian cause in general, it makes it impossible for the Palestinians ever to trust it. And when the United States loses the trust of the Palestinians, it can never be expected to become an arbitrator in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The Palestinians will always look at the United States as totally siding with their archenemy, Israel. That will make it impossible for them to accept at face value anything the United States offers to the peace process, because they will understandably interpret it as a joint U.S.-Israeli tactic aimed at undermining their struggle for liberation and independence.

No one, therefore, should blame the Palestinians for not jumping at peace proposals suggested or backed by the United States, such as James Baker's five-point plan, Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan or Yitzhaq Shamir's four-point plan. The Palestinians will examine every proposal and will demand clarifications and guarantees before they approve anything. The stakes are too high for the Palestinians, and the cost will be even higher if they accept without question any proposal offered, as they are now being asked to do.

Settlers Protest Implementation of Rafah Accord

TA0612114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Scores of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip demonstrated this morning against the implementation of an agreement between Israel and Egypt, whereby 5,800 Palestinian refugees will move from the Egyptian half of Rafah to the Israeli side. The first of the refugees are scheduled to cross the border today. Mark Weiss has more details:

[Passage omitted] Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip strongly oppose the agreement. Scores of settlers demonstrated this morning in the Gaza Strip, but were prevented by soldiers from protesting in Rafah. [passage omitted]

The Civil Administration said stringent checks will be made to make sure that no terrorists or criminals cross into Israel as part of the agreement. The settlers also claim that another clause in the agreement for the transfer of thousands of bedouins to Israel has not been implemented.

Violence, Strikes, Curfews in Territories

Curfew on Camp Lifted

TA0112083589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning lifted the curfew imposed yesterday on the 'Aqabat Jabir refugee camp near Jericho. The curfew was imposed after two policeman were slightly injured when a firebomb was thrown at their vehicle last night. The two were hospitalized in Hadassah Hospital and will be released this morning.

Our correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil reports that the IDF lifted the curfew imposed on the village of Biddiya in Samaria. The Qalandiyah and al-Duhayshah refugee camps and the village of al-Ram are still under curfew. Al-Duhayshah has been under curfew for over a week.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 1 December adds: "Last night a 28-year-old resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp was severely wounded in Nazareth when attacked by three residents of the Gaza Strip. The three came to the man's room and stabbed him. The man was taken to the hospital. The Nazareth Police are searching for the three assailants. It is assumed that they were following orders" from HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement).]

'Terrorists' Killed in Nabulus

TA0112172889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] At noon today in Nabulus, four terrorists were killed and three wounded. They were caught in a clash with security forces. Our forces did not sustain any casualties.

Our correspondents Moti Amir and Karmela Menashe report that the members of the gang were armed with M-16's and pistols, which they tried to use at the time of the encounter. The gang went by the name of the Black Panther, and its members perpetrated 16 ruthless murders in Nabulus in the last few months.

The gang is charged with having perpetrated dozens of violent assaults, interrogating local residents suspected of collaborating with the authorities, shooting at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] observation posts, and hurling firebombs. The extermination of the gang was preceded by intensive work by the Shin Bet and the IDF. The chief of staff, the head of Shin Bet, and the commander of the Central Command arrived at the scene of the clash. The chief of staff said that the unit that killed the gang had displayed a high level of professionalism. He also lauded the Shin Bet.

Another violent gang, which went by the name of the Red Eagle, was caught in Nabulus 3 weeks ago, and its leader was killed.

Quoting Arab sources, our correspondent Moti Amir adds that riots erupted in the vicinity of the casbah in the wake of the clash, and six locals were wounded by soldiers' gunfire. A curfew has been clamped on Nabulus and its environs.

'Dozens' Arrested in Nabulus

TA0212153589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been conducting a large-scale operation in the Nabulus casbah since this morning. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a large IDF presence has been conducting house-to-house searches. So far, dozens of wanted men have been arrested and various types of weapons, including axes, clubs, and knives, have been confiscated. The town of Nabulus remains under curfew, and quiet prevails.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF's Central Command, says that in the clash with the Black Panther terrorist gang, four members were killed and five captured, including two wounded. The fatalities include 'Imad Nasir, the gang leader; Hani Shrushtayim, his deputy; and 'Umar 'Arafat, the third in command. Gen Mordekhay pointed out that standing procedures were observed in the capture of the gang. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that Gen Mordekhay added that the gang members were found in possession of two pistols and an M-16 rifle which had been stolen from a border policeman 3 weeks ago.

Gen Mordekhay stressed that the IDF is and will continue to be in control of the Nabulus casbah. In his opinion, the exposure of several terrorist gangs in the city will bring about further calm in Nabulus. But Gen Mordekhay also noted that one should not expect the activities of masked men, and stone-throwing incidents as well, to end altogether.

'Widespread' Unrest in Gaza

TA0212183089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today prevented a delegation of the There Is a Limit movement from visiting Bayt Sahur and spending time in the homes of local residents. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 30 members of the movement came to the town but were stopped by an IDF roadblock. A delegation of inhabitants of Bayt Sahur, led by the mayor, set out for the roadblock. They issued a communique stating that only a political solution will extricate the sides from the vicious circle of hatred and violence.

The IDF today lifted the 10-day curfew in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. A general commercial strike was staged today in Ramallah, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. The inhabitants today declared a day of mourning for the members of the terrorist gang who were killed on Friday in a clash with an IDF unit in the Nabulus casbah.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 2 December adds: "Widespread disturbances are reported in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the army operation in Nabulus. Hospital sources say 36 Palestinians were wounded today in clashes with the army. Arab shops in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria closed in a spontaneous strike. An army spokeswoman said she could not confirm reports of Arab injuries. Military sources reported four Arabs hurt."]

Weekend Demonstrations in Gaza

TA0312113389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 89 p 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Two Palestinians died yesterday in the West Bank. Hamid Jabir, from Tayasir, near Nabulus, died of wounds sustained three weeks ago in a clash with troops, and Mohammud Asif, from Kafr Laqif, near Tulkarm, died when he picked up an object that exploded in his hands, according to Palestinian sources. [passage omitted]

News of the killing of four "Black Panthers" in Nabulus on Friday sparked demonstrations and clashes in various parts of the Gaza Strip over the weekend. Troops shot and wounded 19 Palestinians on Friday and 28 yesterday, according to Gazan hospital records. Military sources reported six injured yesterday. [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 3 December in a page 8 report on unrest in the Gaza Strip by Mikhal Qedem, Oren Kohen, and Fayiz 'Abbas, states that "Arab sources reported 55 gunfire casualties" over the weekend. The report adds that "on Friday, 1 December, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an army patrol on al-Wahadah Street in Gaza. There were no injuries, and no damage was caused."]

In the West Bank, a spontaneous strike was held in Ramallah, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah and several villages as an expression of mourning for the "Black Panthers." Six were hurt in clashes in Nabulus before a curfew was imposed on Friday.

In Nabulus, troops confiscated manuscript copies of short stories and other personal documents from the poet and author Sami al-Kilani. Al-Kilani is a teacher of physics at al-Najah University and a prominent Palestinian writer. [passage omitted]

Girl Killed by IDF in Gaza

TA0312114589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] A 10-year-old girl was killed this morning in disturbances in the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Her family snatched the body from the hospital and buried it. The army is checking the circumstances of the incident and imposed a curfew on al-Shati'. A commercial strike was called today in the Strip in protest over the killing of four members of the Black Panther gang of Nabulus. There were also disturbances this morning in the Jabalyah and al-Nusayrat refugee camps and in Gaza city. In Jabalyah a masked man was shot and wounded. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 3 December in a similar report quotes Arab sources as saying that "there were seven casualties during the disturbances."]

The curfew is continuing in Nabulus and large army forces are continuing searches for wanted activists and weapons. Military sources say the Black Panther group, which was smashed by the army on Friday, intended to carry out a major suicide attack with many casualties. The head of Central Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, says security forces have apprehended 130 wanted Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria over the past 4 months.

70 Nabulus Residents Detained

TA0312200689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Text] Some 70 residents of Nabulus were detained today during an ongoing search and detention operation carried out since Friday, 1 December. Last night two more members of the Black Panthers squad were apprehended. Four members of that squad were killed and five captured 2 days ago in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. A 3-day general strike was declared in Judaea and Samaria to mourn the late squad members. Our correspondent Beni Liss toured the Nabulus casbah today. Here is his report:

Today, too, IDF soldiers carried out house-to-house searches in an operation that started soon after the Black Panthers had been eliminated. The soldiers continue to search for wanted men and weapons. Nabulus, with its 100,000 residents, is under curfew due to riots that broke out when news spread of the squad's elimination.

The IDF disseminated a leaflet to the population explaining that the soldiers have removed the squad's threat to the residents' lives despite the residents' conspiracy of silence and their provision of refuge to the squad members. The leaflet calls on the residents of Nabulus to rid themselves of violent elements. IDF soldiers often search the same houses twice, even more, to see whether wanted men have returned. The Civil Administration also is taking advantage of the curfew and is calling on people who owe taxes.

Despite the fact that the Black Panthers operated mainly against Arabs whom they suspected of having collaborated with the authorities, and although the squad had operated in contradiction to PLO orders to stop the internal eliminations, various organizations have called on the residents of Judaea and Samaria to stage a 3-day strike to mourn the killing of the squad members. The call was closely observed throughout most of the territories.

General Strike Observed

TA0412115089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] There is a general strike in the territories today. Laborers did not report to work in Israel and public transportation is not operating. The security forces have clamped a curfew on the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. No particular incidents have been registered so far in the territories.

Leaflet No 49 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising calling for strikes on various anniversary dates was disseminated yesterday. A special leaflet on behalf of the leadership of the intifadah calling on the population to boycott Israeli products was disseminated in Tulkarm yesterday. Military sources believe that in the wake of the decline in the violence and the volume of riots in the territories, the leaders of the intifadah are trying to move the uprising toward a civil uprising.

Update on 3 Dec Incidents

TA0412123989 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Dec 89 pp 1, 3

[Report by Dani Tzidqoni and the correspondent in the territories]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to local sources, 31 people were wounded in the Gaza Strip yesterday, including a 4-year-old girl who was wounded in the face by a rubber bullet. This did not prevent thousands of locals from departing for work in Israel in the early hours of the morning. Some 30 people were wounded in incidents in the Gaza Strip on Friday and Saturday.

The general strike which had been declared in the wake of the death of four members of the Black Panther gang in Nabulus continued yesterday in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

In Jabalyah, a masked man was wounded by the security forces and was evacuated to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. Sabha Rahman al-Kik, a 27-year-old resident of Rafah and mother of seven—some of them detainees—was arrested on Friday when she called on one of her children in prison in Ashqelon.

Eleven-year-old Ziyad Abu-Armis was killed on Saturday in the village of Za'tarah near Bethlehem when an unidentified object he was playing with exploded in his hands. [passage omitted]

President Herzog on Official Visit to Argentina

For reportage on the official visit of President Herzog to Argentina, including his talks with Argentine President Carlos Menem, see the Argentina section of the 5 December Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Correction on Economic Aspects of Intifadah

TA0612144789

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Paper Reviews Economic Aspects of Intifadah" published in the 6 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 30:

first paragraph of item, first sentence, make read... Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on... (correcting source).

Prime Minister Badran Organizes New Government

Royal Decree Endorses Cabinet

JN0612204789 Amman Television Service in English 2020 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following:

A royal decree was issued today endorsing the formation of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's cabinet. The cabinet includes the following ministers:

Mr Mudar Badran, prime minister and minister of defense; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and minister of interior; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, minister of social development; Dr Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn, minister of health; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of public works and housing; Ibrahim Ayyub, minister of transport and communications; 'Awni al-Masri, minister of planning; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of information; Basil Jardanah, minister of finance; Ziyad Fariz, minister of industry and trade; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Dr Muhammad Hamdan, minister of education and higher education; Dawud Khalaf, minister of irrigation and water resources; Nabil Abu-al-Huda, minister of supply; Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, minister of justice; Thabit al-Tahir, minister of energy and mineral resources; Sulayman 'Arabiyat, minister of agriculture; Khalid al-Karaki, minister of culture; 'Ali al-Faqir, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs; Qasim 'Ubaydat, minister of labor; Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, minister of youth; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of tourism and antiquities; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

No Agreement With Brotherhood

JN0612125089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Dispatch by Randah Habib in Amman]

[Text] Intensive deliberations and consultations between Prime Minister-designate Mudar Badran and the Muslim Brotherhood deputies continued until dawn today, but no agreement on these deputies' representation in the new government was reached. The 22 Muslim Brotherhood deputies insist on obtaining the Education Ministry portfolio as one of the six portfolios they demanded, but Badran refused to give them this portfolio and offered instead the Ministry of Higher Education, which does not supervise the setting of the country's school curricula. He also offered them, in addition to another three portfolios, the portfolio for cabinet affairs, specifically for Deputy Majid 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, son of the controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood deputies today decided to decline participating in the government unless a solution is reached about the Education Ministry portfolio. If no agreement is reached and if the Muslim Brotherhood is not represented in the government, the tendency will be for Badran to give additional portfolios to personalities from the independent Muslim current, the Democratic Grouping, and the Independent Nationalists in order to avoid a vote of no confidence in his government.

In a related development, Badran today met with eight representatives of the 32 independent nationalist deputies, who are demanding 6 portfolios, including a political portfolio in addition to the Ministry of Planning.

Yesterday Badran said he would announce the names of his government members within 24 hours.

New Government Described

JN0712071089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The names of the 24 ministers of Mudar Badran's Government were announced last night. The new government does not include any member of the Muslim Brotherhood group from within the parliament. The new government comprises 10 deputies, 3 of whom belong to the independent Muslim current, and 3 others from the leftist trend, 2 of whom are members of the Democratic Grouping in the House of Representatives.

The official spokesman for this group commented on the participation of two of the group's members in the government, saying they had lost their membership in the Democratic Grouping because they agreed to participate in the government, contrary to what was agreed. As for the other four deputies, they are from the independent nationalists, which are close to the state.

On the other hand, six ministers from Zayd bin-Shakir's government remained ministers in the new government. Among these ministers are Salim al-Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Marwan al-Qasim, foreign minister.

The announcement of the new government thus ends 48 hours of intensive consultations, particularly with the Muslim Brotherhood members who decided not to participate in the government, because their demand to obtain the Education Ministry portfolio was rejected.

The new government now has to win parliament's vote of confidence in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. 'Abd al-Latif 'Arabiyat—official spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood deputies, who form one-fourth of the 80-member House of Representatives—affirmed not being represented in Badran's Government does not mean they will not cooperate with it, or that they will not give it a vote of confidence. 'Arabiyat pointed out the question of a vote of confidence depends on this government's program.

Brotherhood's Cabinet Participation Reviewed

JN0712103189 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Dec 89 p 18

["Every Day Column" by Tariq Masarwah: "Formation of a New Cabinet"]

[Text] The prime minister-designate has taken his time to form the venerable government—this is his right, because the conditions for forming governments now are different; in the presence of a House of Representatives, and in light of the requirements of the serious forthcoming stage.

First, we are called on to mobilize all the national forces in the arena—right, left, and moderate—there is no difference since the homeland still is undergoing a crisis, and because the nation is required to accept the fateful political, economic challenge in an ever-changing world.

Before the presentation of any working programs, designating names, or blocs, we have chosen democracy as our method and means to deal with the forthcoming stage with all its crises and challenges. Democracy is not a magical word, nor a solution in itself; it is practice, patience, sacrifice, and honest consideration where personal or party gains are disregarded.

The prime minister-designate has taken his time, made contacts with all political parliamentary blocs, independent deputies, and public figures, and made offers to everyone to take part in the cabinet on the basis of the letter of designation—a comprehensive, simple, and straightforward letter.

Until yesterday evening, it seems the Muslim brothers have declined to take part in the cabinet because they did not obtain a particular ministry, although five ministries were proposed. In the democratic game, their apology is accepted; although it is inconsistent with the necessity to mobilize all the national forces active on the arena. The ministry they seek has not been far from their reach during 2 long decades. Moreover, their presence in this ministry did not realize a great achievement for the ministry itself. However, the only party achievement for the Muslim brothers was in the parliamentary elections.

Until Wednesday morning, it seems the Democratic Grouping, which is attracting more members, is ready to take part in the cabinet on the basis of the general political, economic trends of the cabinet, not on the basis of cabinet seats, because the group's request is a political one. Here, we have to admit the group's ability, shrewdness, and farsightedness in dealing with the election of a speaker and with the formation of the cabinet. In the first vote, the group exploited the nomination of deputy Layth Shubaylat and gave him 12 votes. In the second vote, the group sided with Sulayman 'Arar, making him win the speakership. Thus, the group demonstrated its weight in the House of Representatives. Besides, the group expressed to the prime minister-designate its readiness to take part in the cabinet on the basis of the cabinet's political, economic program, not on the basis of cabinet seats.

We write of the formation of a new cabinet. It might have been formed while the paper is still in the process of being printed. However, optimism still is prevailing.

Prime Minister Replies to Letter of Designation

JN0712093089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Dec 89

["Text" of letter from Prime Minister Mudar Badran to King Husayn, replying to the letter of designation, dated 6 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate; Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, God protect and support you: I send to your majesty the sincerest feelings of loyalty and fidelity and pray to God the Almighty to protect you and grant you all success. He granted our Arab Jordan a leadership from the progeny of Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him—a leadership represented by your deep-rooted Hashemite personality, with all the genuine implications it carries, the historic and cultural dimensions it entails, and the immortal Arab ambitions and Islamic values it symbolizes.

You have honored me, my lord, with your royal letter entrusting me to form the new government. While feeling proud of this dear royal confidence, I fully realize the burden of the trust, which I humbly shoulder upon your orders at this critical phase we are going through. However, what gives me, after reliance on God, determination and ability to carry the trust is your confidence in me, the sincere support and wise guidance I always have received from you, and the hopes you are pinning on the democratic parliamentary policy and on the embodiment of the principle of participation through constructive cooperation with the legislative authority. I am full of hope and wishes that God may grant me success to perform my duty in a way that brings good and blessings to the citizens and strength and might to our Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for which your majesty wishes and is eager.

Your faithful Jordanian people, my lord, realize and appreciate your achievements on the Arab and international scenes. Through your own credibility, your majesty, you have built a high credibility for Jordan. This has borne fruits of strength, support, and respect for the homeland, and our people have felt its positive impact in the recent period in particular, when brothers and friends hastened, thanks to them, to help Jordan overcome its financial crisis. From this premise, my government will pursue your steps and continue interaction, communication, and cooperation with the various world nations and international organizations to safeguard and perpetuate this credibility, help solve international problems, support human rights, and protect the world environment order. In its actions, my government will continue to proceed from commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt—both principles of unity and development—and from its policy of centrism, moderation, and constructive pluralism within the framework of the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement, in the interests of our people and the issues of our nation.

As stated in your royal guidance, my government will act to protect and deepen the democratic parliamentary policy through emphasizing the rule of law and spreading the spirit of solidarity, participation, tolerance, respect of others' opinions, constructive dialogue, and responsible freedom. It also will act to support our Armed Forces to enable them to perform their sacred duty of defending the homeland and the Arab order. It will act to develop the security organs to enable them to maintain order and provide assurance and security to our institutions and citizens within the framework of maintaining and abiding by the law.

The impact of economic recession, burden of foreign debts and the accompanying financial crisis will be at the top of my government's priority list. My government, in accordance with your royal guidance, will act to handle this crisis by proceeding with the program of economic reform and readjustment and modifying patterns of consumption, investment, production, marketing, and exports.

In the financial field, my government will act toward building up the kingdom's reserves of foreign currency with a view to achieving a balance of payments and maintaining a stable exchange rate for the Jordanian dinar. In particular, it will draw up a strategy to handle the problem of foreign debts. Because the economic and financial problem is a common national one, its treatment requires public national efforts, and this makes my government eager to secure the cooperation of citizens in these common efforts.

My lord, your majesty: The initial guidance and visions contained in the royal letter of designation will, in essence and detail, constitute the policy which my government will pursue, whether as concerns Arab issues, formost of which are the Palestine question and the Arab Cooperation Council, or as concerns domestic social, economic, cultural, educational, administrative, and media affairs. We will be guided by your royal directives, winning your constant support. We will translate the letter of designation into policies and programs; we pray to God grant us success to crystalize and implement these policies and programs to achieve the transitional and long-term goals, so we may measure up to the level of your majesty's confidence and the hope of our citizens. Thus, we please God the Almighty, and by his help, we serve the homeland and the leader. I am honored to forward to your exhalted office the names of my colleagues, the ministers, and I hope your majesty will grace the royal decree with your esteemed signature. May God protect you and grant you success, my great lord.

[Signed] Your loyal servant. Amman 8 Jumada al-Ula 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1989

Bin-Shakir Named Royal Court Chief, Army Adviser

JN0712073489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir chief of the Royal Court and military adviser to His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Arab Army—the Jordanian Armed Forces.

House of Representatives Elects Committees

JN0612205789 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The third sitting of the first ordinary session of the 11th House of Representative was held today under Speaker Sulayman 'Arar. Our Parliamentary Affairs Correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah has further details.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] At the beginning of the sitting, the deputies decided to send two cables of congratulations to the People's Assemblies in the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on the occasion of the agreement to unify the two parts of Yemen.

Following that the deputies began electing the house committees, and members were elected to the committee for contesting and verifying deputies' representation. It was agreed to set up two committees for that purpose. The first committee is composed of: Dr Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi, Nayif al-Hadid, Fakhri Qa'war, Faris al-Nabulsi, Dr Husni al-Shayyab, Dr Dhib Marji, and 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi. The second committee is composed of: Salim al-Zu'bi, Dr Majid Khalifah, Dr Muhammad Abu-'Alim, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, Mansur Murad, Muhammad Dardur, Jamal al-Khurayshah, and Nadir al-Zuhayrat.

Following that, members of the house permanent committees were elected unanimously as follows:

The Administrative Committee: Ya'qub Qirrish, Layth Shubaylat, Mansur Murad, Fakhri Qa'war, Dr Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi, Dawud Qujaq, 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ukur, Muhammad Dardur, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, Nadir Zuhayrat, Sultan al-'Adwan, Mahmud Huwaymil, Ziyad al-Shuwaykh, Dhib Anis, Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz, 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Nawwaf al-Khawalidah, Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, Jamal al-Khurayshah, and Faysal al-Jazi.

The Foreign Affairs Committee: Tahir al-Masri, Sa'd Haddadin, 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi, Dr Yusuf Khasawinah, Dr Husni al-Shayyab, Dr Ahmad 'Innab, Dr Qasim 'Ubaydat, Dr 'Awni al-Bashir, Marwan al- Humud, Dr Fawzi Tu'aymah, Jamal al-Sarayirah, 'Isa Madanat, 'Abdallah Zurayqat, Yusuf al-'Azm, Dr Muhammad al-Haj, Salamah al- Ghuwyari, Dr Muhammad Abu-'Alim, Eng Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, and Dr Muhammad al-Zabn.

The Legal Committee: 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, Dr Majid Khalifah, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, Faris al-Nabulsi, Nayif al-Hadid, Dr Hammam Sa'id, Dr Muhammad Abu-Faris, Dr Ahmad al-Kawfahi, Husayn Mujalli, Salim al-Zu'bi, Dr 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, Ibrahim Khuraysat, 'Atif al-Butush, Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Eng Hisham al-Sharari, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Muhammad al-Mu'ar'ar, Dr Nayif Abu-Tayih, and Kamil al-'Umari.

The Finance Committee: Dr 'Ali al-Faqir, Dr 'Ali al-Hawamidah, Hamzah Mansur, 'Ata al-Shahwan, Ahmad al-Azayidah, Muhammad al-'Alawinah, Dr Dhib Marji, 'Isa al-Rimuni, 'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat, Jamal Haddad, Dr 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Samir Qa'war, Ahmad al-Kafawin, Mutayr al-Bustanji, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Bassam Haddadin, Dr 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, and Fu'ad al-Khalafat.

The sitting lasted until 1730 today.

The House of Representatives speaker has decided to call a house sitting for 1000 next Sunday [10 December]. He also decided to call meetings of the permanent committees on the same day to elect their chairmen and rapporteurs. [end recording]

New Parliament, Prime Minister Should Cooperate

JN0612095089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 89 p 4

[Editorial: "One for all, and all for one"]

[Text] Although the Royal letter of designation to Prime Minister Mudar Badran was technically addressed to the new prime minister and his cabinet, it should be construed also as addressed to the Parliament as well. As the speech from the Throne was also technically addressed to the new Houses of the Parliament, it was also meant to be a speech to the entire country, including the three branches of government. Otherwise it would be impossible for any new prime minister or a new Parliament on their own to carry out the long and difficult mandate assigned to either one of them. That is why one would expect the new Parliament, especially the Lower House, to extend a cooperative hand to the new prime minister in order to make it possible for him to implement the various chapters in the Royal letter of designation.

To be more specific, most of the contents of the letter of designation to Prime Minister Badran would require new legislations on the basis of new policy guidelines that have to be first aired out in the Parliament and then translated into laws. There is simply no alternative to a working relationship between the executive and legislative branches of the government based on mutual respect. Unlike all previous occasions, when there was no effective Parliament in operation, the new cabinet of Prime Minister Badran will have to stay in close contact with the Parliament with a view to harmonising their perspectives and priorities. And while such a new found relationship between the two branches of government may not be an easy sailing, it is bound nevertheless to consolidate and fortify the democratisation process in the country. The first sign of this new relationship is the time taken to form the new cabinet. The consultations undertaken already with various currents and movements within the Lower House of the Parliament is a sure sign that the Kingdom is at the threshold of a new era in operational parliamentary system of government.

What remains to be done is even more formidable than what has already been achieved. The policy guidelines contained in the Royal letter of designation embodies a long list of what needs to be done locally, regionally and internationally. For one thing the new government would need much time to deal with the challenges and issues presented in the Royal letter of designation. Above all, however, the new government of Mudar Badran needs the cooperation of Parliament and the people of Jordan who elected the new Lower House of Parliament. In view of the grave dangers and challenges that lie ahead, it is time for all Jordanians and branches of government to overcome all the hardships facing the Kingdom be they economic or political.

John Kelly Meets King, Bin-Shakir, Departs

JN0612144389 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Dec (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Mr John Kelly, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. He briefed his majesty on the results of the Malta summit held by presidents Gorbachev and Bush, and on efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, settle the Lebanon crisis and the dispute in Afghanistan.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the U.S. ambassador in Amman; and Mr Kelly's delegation.

The prime minister had received the U.S. official this morning. The meeting concentrated on the most important issues in the region and bilateral relations between Jordan and the United States.

Mr Kelly left Amman this afternoon concluding a short visit to Jordan.

Al-Wahdah Dam Diversion Tunnel Completed

JN0712103589 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 7 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—Dr Muhammad Bani-Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, has stated a diversion tunnel on the al-Yarmuk River for the al-Wahdah Dam project has been completed. The cost of the tunnel, which was built by Jordan and Syria, amounts to 2.5 million Jordanian dinars, covered from the Jordanian treasury. The tunnel is 934 meters long and 7.7 meters in diameter.

The secretary general added the Jordanian-Syrian committee entrusted with the project will meet in January 1990 to follow up the dam project. The construction of the Dam will begin next year and is expected to take 4 years.

Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed With Syria

JN0512134089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Dec 89 p 12

[Text] Amman, PETRA—A cooperation protocol was signed in Amman yesterday between the Union of the Syrian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Union of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Amman's Chamber of Industry.

The protocol provides for the exchange of information on economic growth in the two countries. It also calls for increasing the volume of bilateral trade, expanding economic and industrial cooperation between the concerned businesses and organizations, and working to remove obstacles standing in the way of activating trade between the two countries.

Al-Hirawi Reviews Options for Entering B'abda

Awaiting Results of 'Mediations'

LD0612112589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1030 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 6 (KUNA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed that he will be in the Lebanese Presidential Palace in B'abda in days, revealing that he ordered Army Commander Gen. Emile Lahhud to prepare himself to enter the eastern parts of the Lebanese capital of Beirut.

The Lebanese president added, in an interview with Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS published here today, that he gave "a limited and precise method" for mediations carried out by regional and international friendly parties. He said, "if that period ends and the mediations do not reach positive results, then other means will be used." He did not elaborate on the subject. He added during his interview, that was held in Ablah Military Camp in al-Biqa', north Lebanon, that he prefers to reach B'abda Palace with an olive branch and not with artillery. But he added, however, that if the peaceful solution was impossible to implement then those who were behind it will shoulder the responsibility.

Al-Hirawi said that a rift will occur soon inside military units operating in East Beirut, and noted that those officers and soldiers operating there "will follow the legitimate leadership" because he is confident of their loyalty to their country. He said that he has "the information that prompt," but refused to go into details. [sentence as received]

The Lebanese president said that he does not want to enter in any "wrangle" with Gen. Michel 'Awn. Al-Hirawi said that the militias will be dissolved in the next meeting of the cabinet, and if one of those militias did not follow orders they will be forced to do so with appropriate means and maybe Syrian forces' aid will be sought according to the al-Ta'if agreement. "And I promise that these militias will be removed," he said.

He said that he wants to "negotiate" with Syria as two independent states, but if Syria's request does not agree with Lebanon's independence "then I will politely tell her that this is inagreeable with me." On the situation in south Lebanon, Al-Hirawi praised operations of the resistance forces against the Israeli occupation.

Militias May Be Disbanded

NC0612123589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said: If the peaceful solution fails, then we will hold the usurper and those around him responsible.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, he said that he has provided a precisely determined time frame for the success of mediations undertaken by friendly regional and international parties. He added that if this time lapses without these mediations reaching positive results, then he will resort to other means.

Al-Hirawi also said that the decision to disband the militias will be made at a future cabinet meeting, and if any of them refuses to heed the decision then it will be quelled with the appropriate means. He added that he can ask for the help of the Syrian Army to achieve this in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord.

Threatens Resignation

NC0612184189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has voiced his rejection of every kind of partition and division, stressing the importance of continuing along the lines of national accord, which must include all Lebanese.

In an interview reported by REUTER this evening, President al-Hirawi said he will resign if he fails to remove General 'Awn and impose his government's authority on all the Lebanese territories. He did not assume the presidency just to become president, he asserted. During a meeting in Ablah, Al-Hirawi added: I wish to implement an agreement in which I believe to reunify Lebanon and impose the state's sovereignty on Lebanese soil. If this proves difficult and the scheme to partition Lebanon proves to be bigger than I am, let them look for someone else, because I will not stay in the president's chair, he said.

President al-Hirawi added: I will broadcast a statement to all the Lebanese if I lose patience with mediation and all my resources have been exhausted. I will ask them to forgive me. I was elected to the post, and I do not particularly like the title of excellency. I am not here to administer the crisis.

Al-Hirawi said that he had deferred a military attack against the eastern area of Beirut to make room for mediation attempts by superpowers and Arab and friendly countries. In essence, I am against war and against anything that disturbs peace and results in death, injury, or bloodshed, he said.

On the deadline for reaching B'abda Palace, President al-Hirawi said: It may be a matter of days or a matter of 2 weeks. What is important is that we keep the time short, not out of ambition to reach B'abda Palace, but to prevent Lebanon from being partitioned.

President al-Hirawi criticized what he described as the tens of thousands who have been massed around B'abda Palace for 10 days to form a human shield and prevent an attack on the palace. He said: If the situation continues, there is fear that this will lead to a partitionist move, which may be copied by other Lebanese areas. If this happens we will have a Muslim and a Christian state.

Calls for Soviet Efforts

NC0712084889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Ambassador in Moscow Mahmud Hammud has conveyed a cable from President Ilyas al-Hirawi to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The cable describes General 'Awn's rebellion as a stumbling block impeding the realization of legitimacy and peace in Lebanon.

In his cable, President al-Hirawi urged the Soviet Union to step up its efforts and help Lebanon ride out its ordeal.

Asks Lahhud To End 'Farce'

NC0712111089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet convened under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Shtawrah at 1145 today. All but ministers George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, a meeting grouping President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, and Defense Minister Albert Mansur was held in Ablah yesterday to discuss the general situation. The president of the republic instructed the army commander to put an end to the farce which is taking place in front of the B'abda Palace.

For his part, Ibrahimi voiced support for President al-Hirawi, adding that the Bush-Gorbachev summit will yield positive results on Lebanon's level. He emphasized that France has no right to request an amendment of the al-Ta'if accord, because this is purely a Lebanese step sponsored by the Arabs.

Emile Lahhud Finalizing Plan To Reunify Army

NC0712065289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has begun his contacts and meetings with a number of officers in finalizing a plan to reunify the army. He paid a visit to the north and met with military leaders there.

Army Morale Guidance Directorate sources cited Gen Lahhud as saying he will lead the army first to regain al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] from its usurpers and then command the unified Lebanese army from there. The sources added that Gen Lahhud knows very well how to attain his goals very soon and how to ensure the army's unity, pride, and dignity, asserting his concern for every officer, noncommissioned officer, and man in the army. He emphasized the importance of allegiance to the military establishement and loyalty to legitimacy only, not to individuals. He urged soldiers not to cling to posts that have no legitimate claim.

Radio Claims Lahhud Considering Resigning

NC0712070889 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] According to security reports in the occupied area, Commodore [title as heard] Emile Lahhud, who was appointed army commander by the so-called government, has informed Dr Salim al-Huss of his wish to submit his resignation and return to the free area because the officers and soldiers in al-Yarzah refuse to join his command.

The sources said that Lahhud has left his command headquarters in the Spinneys area [of West Beirut] for an unknown destination.

Defense Minister on Means To Restore Legitimacy

NC0612124889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Defense Minister Dr Albert Mansur said today that he will use all the peaceful and legitimate means to establish the state's authority and legitimacy. He added: When all these means are exhausted, I will announce what measures should be taken. These measures will certainly serve legitimacy and will absolutely be against the rebels.

Minister Mansur affirmed that legitimacy possesses the necessary means to regain its centers and strike at the rebellion and end it most effectively. He pointed out that it is not going to be war but an operation to regain the legitimate centers.

General Strike Observed in 'Nationalist Areas'

NC0712103489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The nationalist areas observed a general strike today in response to a call made by the National Front under the slogan: Yes to one Lebanon; yes to confronting liberation and to preventing partition.

The strike, in which West Beirut, the Southern Suburb, the north, the south, al-Biqa', and the Mountain have participated, has not been observed in the eastern areas that are subjected to the fascist terrorism by the al-Yarzah army cliques.

Air traffic at Beirut International Airport was suspended for 1 hour as a symbolic participation in the strike by airport employees and workers.

'Awn Promises To Protect People Against Threats

NC0612191789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Delegations have continued to arrive at B'abda Palace to express support for General Michel 'Awn. The sit-in by the people around the palace is continuing until further notice.

In a speech to a delegation of engineers, Gen 'Awn said: We have won the battle of the present. What is important is for us to win the battle of the future. He added: No one in the world can implement any agreement here at your expense. He then asserted:

[Begin recording] I do not know why there is fear that we will not win our battle. We have won the battle of the present. What is important is for us to win the battle of the future. You are the future. You are the possibility of change. Live your ideals. Lebanon will be rebuilt for the coming centuries. You will be able to hand it on to future generations, which will be pure as you are, cleansed by fire and blood. Through this gift, we will be leaving a memorial for the future, for our children and our grandchildren, so that they can remember what you achieved in building Lebanon.

I assure you that as long as you are united and give such support to the march, no one in the world can implement any agreement here at your expense. You will never be the lamb which is sacrificed on the altar of the Middle East so that the problems of others may be solved. Stay united and maintain the strong pressure [words indistinct] until we achieve a decisive result. We do not want [words indistinct] to be able to divide our ranks and push through solutions. No one should be afraid. I have championed freedom, and said that if anyone has an opinion let him voice it. I will permit him to stand before me. I will not use my power, my troops, my people, or anything else against freedom. Freedom is not afraid of the truth. The truth is with us. Do not be afraid of anyone who makes threats against you. We are here to protect you. We will protect you against external and internal threats. We will even protect you against the nightmares you may have at night. Do not be afraid of anyone. [end recording]

'Awn Writes Article on Ties With Syria, Israel

NC0712090989 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has emphasized that any formula or planned agreement being considered for implementation in the Lebanese link [mifsal] of the Arab-Israeli conflict will not succeed unless it is based on a tripartite Lebanese-Syrian-Israeli foundation. He added that such a situation, or rather a tripartite understanding, is the only one capable of existing.

He said the only alternative to the reality of these Lebanese links is for Damascus to become convinced that it must lift its custodianship over Lebanon entirely and for Tel Aviv to become convinced that a strong Lebanon is the best guarantee for stability in the south.

'Awn declared: At any rate, Syria and Israel must realize that a Lebanese Lebanon is the ideal neighbor for both of them. He added that it is time for them to be separated after their prolonged experience together.

This was in an article by Gen 'Awn which was published in the first issue of the magazine AL-DIFA' AL-WATANI AL-LUBNANI [Lebanese National Defense]. The magazine is published by the Army Command's Morale Guidance Directorate. It is a quarterly that includes research and other articles, and in-depth strategic studies.

In addition to Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn's article on the causes of failure and success in the agreements pertaining to the strategic link, the first issue included articles about: Lebanese-U.S. relations within the context of the policy of regional balance—1975-89 by Dr Farid al-Khazin; peace tendencies in the Arab-Israeli conflict by Dr Dawud al-Sayigh; and the new balance in the Middle East in the wake of the Iraq-Iran war by Dr Milhim Shawul.

The magazine included three studies about reforms by Dr Antoine Nasri Masarrah, Professor Ilyas al-Haswani, and Dr Fadia Kiwan; a dossier on the Syrian presence in Lebanon and studies by Staff Brigadier General Fu'ad 'Awn, Brigadier General Munir al-Samarani, and Dr 'Isam Khalifah; and articles by Dr George al-Murr, Ricardus al-Habr, Dr Yusri Salim Bulus, Dr Michel Ni'meh, and Captain Antoine Nujaym.

Morale Guidance Directorate Director Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Izzat al-Haddad has remarked that the quarterly AL-DIFA' AL-WATANI AL-LUBNANI might at a later stage become a monthly magazine. He noted that it is different from the AL-JAYSH [army] magazine in form and content but complements its objectives. He added that the aim is to make AL-DIFA' AL-WATANI AL-LUBNANI a rostrum for free and liberal thought. Its pages are open to patriotic writers who believe in the influence of thought on a homeland's future, he said.

Ja'ja' Asserts Resistance March Will Continue

NC0612131889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' asserted that the resistance march will continue until we realize our goals. Speaking to demonstrators representing the township of 'Aynata today, he said: We are responsible before everyone and our duty is to stand as one rank.

He added: When we started our struggle together in Tannurin and on the outskirts of the north, the resistance was in its early stages. From there we began the march to reach every inch in Lebanon, and we will do that. He added: It is true we are from 'Aynata. However, our task is to defend all the regions, and ultimately 'Aynata, he said.

Israel Reportedly Moves Missiles to Border Area

NC0712074089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] According to security reports from the south, Israeli occupation forces have brought long-range missile batteries to the occupied border strip during the past few hours. The missiles have been installed in the Israeli forces' advanced positions near Kawkawba and Markaba in the eastern and central sectors. Furthermore, Israeli mechanized movements were spotted in the Marj 'Uyun and al-Naqurah sectors last night. Israeli gunboats also were sighted off the Tyre coast last night.

ICRC Will Not Negotiate for Workers' Release

NC0612193489 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec 6 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] will not negotiate the release of two of its delegates who have been kidnapped in southern Lebanon, an ICRC spokesman said here Wednesday.

Carlos Bauverd was addressing a press conference shortly after arriving here from Geneva, where he had threatened that the ICRC could soon end its humanitarian work in Lebanon if the delegates kidnapped October 6 were not freed quickly.

He also admitted that contacts with Syria, Libya, Palestinian parties and various Lebanese leaders for information on the whereabouts of Emanuel Christian and Elio Erriques had been unsuccessful.

But he said he would pursue some contacts and reiterated an ICRC appeal for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the two orthopedic technicians seized October 6 in Sidon, a southern Lebanese port city.

"The release of our two colleagues must not be part of any negotiation... and it is clear that we could reconsider our presence in Lebanon if the release of the two delegates does not take place rapidly," he said.

He had earlier said in Geneva: "It is hard for the ICRC to consider maintaining its full presence in Lebanon as long as threats remain against its personnel," said Carlos Bauverd.

"It is impossible to run the risk of new kidnappings," he had said, adding that the committee could decide to reduce its presence in Lebanon to a single office responsible only for monitoring developments in the abduction.

The abduction of the two orthopedic technicians has never been claimed.

In Sidon, Mr. Bauverd will visit the center where the two men worked to deliver a petition bearing 30,000 Swiss signatures demanding their release.

An ICRC legal advisor travelled to Tunis November 28 to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, while the committee's senior official for the Middle East has just been in Tehran for talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Another ICRC delegate, Peter Winkler, was abducted November 17, 1988 in Sidon and freed a month later.

16 January Group Claims Attacks Against Syrians

NC0612124089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its units attacked a Syrian occupation army position early today on the al-Qubbah-Majdalayya road. It said that two Syrian soldiers were injured and a military jeep was hit.

The organization also claimed responsibility for an attack 2 days ago on the the Dawwar Abu-'Ali roadblock.

Masked Man Kills 5 Palestinians in Sidon Camp

NC0612114389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Five Palestinians were killed in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon last night when a masked gunman opened fire at them in a street in the camp. According to security sources, the masked gunman managed to flee to an unknown destination. The Palestinian armed struggle forces tasked with keeping order in the camp searched for the assailant. It has not been determined if the dead Palestinians had any direct connection with any Palestinian organization.

Officials Move To Stop Amal-Hizballah Clashes

Hizballah Wants Amal 'Removed'

NC0612114189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] A Hizballah official affirmed that Hizballah will continue to work until the Amal Movement is totally removed from western al-Biqa' and has withdrawn to other areas. He accused the Amal Movement of dealing with Israel and of preventing Hizballah members from attacking areas under Israeli forces control in the border area.

Dialogue To End 'Crisis'

NC0612162989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah's central information unit has issued a statement accusing some East Beirut media of inventing statements containing instigation against the Amal Movement and attributing these statements to Hizballah with the intent of fomenting sedition.

The statement says that Hizballah has chosen to settle matters through dialogue and brotherly understanding and discourages resorting to violence. Hizballah and Amal, the statement says, aim to terminate the crisis.

Shams-al-Din Holds Contacts

NC0712081689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, received Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, and Brother Abu-Ahmad, the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. They discussed the current situation.

Shaykh Shams-al-Din met earlier with concerned parties within Hizballah and the Amal Movement to discuss the painful incidents in western al-Biqa'.

He stressed that these painful and cursed incidents are uncalled for and give a negative impression of the Islamic fold's immunity and ability to stand fast in this critical and crucial stage.

Clashes Reported Around Beirut

NC0712103689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Clashes with light- and medium-caliber weapons are taking place between Amal Movement and Hizballah personnel on the outskirts of al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area, especially in the al-Ta'awuniyah building locality on Suria Street [in Beirut]. Rocket shells are exploding over the area.

Reports speak of mutual alerts on both sides and of an armed presence at the scene of the clashes, as well as in the areas of Zuqaq al-Balat, Hay al-Lija, and as far as the western side of the combat lines in the old markets.

Kurdish 'Terrorist' Training Camp in Al-Biqa'

NC0412100789 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Nov-3 Dec 89 p 66

[Text] A camp for the Kurdish Workers Party has been set up in the Yanta area in al-Biqa'. Young Kurdish men and women have begun training in terrorist operations there.

Druze Religious Leader on Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC0212093889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Shaqra has stated that the al-Ta'if agreement has consolidated secterianism in important affairs, such as the three top posts. He said that the Druze community should have had equal rights.

In an interview published in AL-DIYAR today, Abu-Shaqra said that he will not surrender weapons to the army, which he described as factional. He added: It is impossible to disband the militias and surrender their weapons to the army as long as the army remains factional. The army must be reorganized to become the army for all citizens, not for one faction.

Musawi Says Maronite Administration 'Must Fall'

NC0412084689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Dec 89

[Text] His Eminence 'Abbas Musawi has stated: They want to build a state in Lebanon at the hands of traitorous figures who cannot be trusted to serve the people's interests and the interests of the Muslims and the oppressed. He stressed that the Maronite political administration imposed on the Lebanese people must fall. He indicated that the al-Ta'if accord has imposed a Maronite president and a Maronite army commander. They are asking the people to accept this without dialogue or discussion.

His Eminence 'Abbas Musawi declared that the Maronites in Lebanon collaborate with Israel and practice the most ferocious form of oppression against Muslims. He added: All leaders, parties, and organizations in the eastern area have one stand now. France and the West support the eastern area. Therefore, we must fully remember our responsibility in building our society and a good state.

LCP Leader Congratulates PFLP's Habash

NC0612125089 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpt] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], cabled George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], congratulating him on the 22d anniversary of the PFLP and the 3d anniversary of the intifadah.

Hawi reiterated his support for the intifadah, which has asserted the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state under the command of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative for every inch of the yet-to-be-liberated homeland. [passage omitted]

Amal's Nabih Birri Leaves for Damascus 7 Dec

NC0712091289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri has left for the Syrian capital to discuss the latest Lebanese developments with Syrian officials.

Press, Radio Discuss 'Awn, Lebanese Situation

Commentary Urges 'Awn Ouster

JN0612155689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: The march of national reconciliation in Lebanon is advancing with confident steps toward realizing all its goals in the salvation and rebuilding of the unified Lebanon—territory and people—in spite of attempts by 'Awn and his Zionized clique to hamper that march and lay mines in its way by drawing strength from the Zionist enemy and Saddam's fascist regime. 'Awn has the illusion that through this, he can prolong the crisis, turn back the hands of time, and draw Lebanon into the vortex of fighting and chaos. He also has the delusion he can strike against the national achievements scored by the Lebanese people with their sincere determination and their national and pan-Arab direction. These achievements were crowned by the national reconciliation document and the subsequent steps to set up legitimacy and its institutions, which embody the unity of the people and territory, the inevitability of reaching the shores of safety and security, and getting rid of the Zionist partitionist plot and its tools represented by the rebel 'Awn and his clique.

It now became clear to all Lebanese—as well as the Arab nation and the world community—that removing the abnormal situation in the eastern districts [of Beirut] is a vital necessity so the march of national reconciliation in Lebanon can take on its full dimensions and spread the power of legitimacy on all Lebanese territories and unite the Lebanese people's energies and efforts to liberate southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and its direct and indirect effects.

The continuation of the abnormal situation in the eastern districts, represented by the rebel 'Awn and his clique, constitutes a threat to the march of national reconciliation and is a Zionist phenomenon, which must be destroyed to guarantee Lebanon's security and unity and deter the threats facing it. It was no coincidence 'Awn exploded the security situation at the time Israel escalated its savage aggressions against southern Lebanon and committed massacres against its people.

This proves again 'Awn only is a tool in the hands of the Zionist entity, which it moves whenever and however it wishes. It is not in Israel's interest to have an Arab solution in Lebanon. It also is not in Israel's interest if the solution achieves the unity of Lebanon—territory and people—within the framework of its Arab surrounding. This is because the Israeli scheme principally aims to destroy, fragment and partition Lebanon. Hence, 'Awn's rebellion against legitimacy and his terroristic practices in the eastern districts come to embody the Zionist scheme and a frantic attempt to take Lebanon back to the cycle of fighting and chaos.

That evil rebel does not care if the homeland and its people are the victims of his terrorism, because he only cares about going further and further in implementing the criminal Zionist plot and in terrorizing and committing murders and crimes against Lebanon and its people. But 'Awn's calculations never can help him escape the dilemma and deadlock he has reached. That rebel officer has become isolated on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels. It also became an accepted fact that putting an end to the abnormal situation in the eastern districts is the way to resume the march of national reconciliation and salvation in Lebanon.

The statement issued by the Arab tripartite committee came to confirm this fact when it stressed 'Awn's rejection of the al-Ta'if agreement and his refusal to recognize legitimacy in Lebanon are the main obstacles before the national reconciliation march and the main reasons behind the recent escalation in the Lebanese arena. The statement also stressed the way out of that situation is putting an end to 'Awn's insurgency and the abnormal situation he represents in the eastern districts. This is something that must be done, because the Lebanese people—who chose the path of national reconciliation and expressed their sincere national will in the reconciliation document and by setting up the legitimate institutions, represented by the president and the national reconciliation government—can continue their confident steps to remove any obstacles in their way.

The Lebanese people, who toppled the 17 May agreement [between Lebanon and Israel] and defeated the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, will not allow the rebels to block the march of salvation, solution, and reconciliation. They have enough militant experience to qualify them to efficiently resume their reconciliation march.

'Awn and his masters in Tel Aviv, as well as the inheritors of the Baghdad pact, only will reap failure and defeat, because the Lebanese people's resolve to achieve national reconciliation, liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation, and topple its tools, is the strongest. It is the resolve of a people who are determined to achieve their national and pan-Arab objectives; maintain their unity, territory and people; rally around legitimacy and its institutions; and reject the rebels, who are the tools of the Israeli destructive and partitionist plot, and kick them out of their ranks and out of their way.

Lahd, French Lawmakers Criticized

JN0512161889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Lebanese party, political, and spiritual quarters unanimously believe the only party to benefit from blocking the progress of peace and disturbing the work of the Lebanese legitimate authorities is none other than the Israeli enemy. As a result of its aggressive, expansionist nature, that enemy is afraid of seeing the vehicle of solution driven forward in Lebanon by the efforts of its sons and their national reconciliation. This is because Israeli calculations depend on the continuation of the crisis in Lebanon and on ensuring that country remains a ground for sedition and fighting among the sons of the one people. In other words, they want to keep Lebanon as fertile soil to implement the plots of fragmentation and disunity and to carry out their liquidatory plans, which are hatched at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people and the entire Arab nation.

By claiming it will withdraw from the Lebanese territories it occupies when a strong central government is established in Lebanon that will spread its authority over all Lebanese territories, the Israeli enemy is setting a precondition in order to evade the clear international resolutions in this regard, especially [UN Security Council] Resolution 425. This, simply and clearly, means the Israeli enemy, which covets Lebanon's territory and waters, will deploy its full strength and mobilize all of its agents—whether inside Lebanon, such as the agent, Antoine Lahd, and the rebel general, Michel 'Awn; or outside Lebanon, such as the malicious Iraqi regime—to prevent the establishment of a strong central government backed by national and international legitimacy. This is to maintain Lebanon as a source of subversion and an open wound spilling Lebanese blood in a battle that is not the real battle.

When the institutions of legitimacy in Lebanon were instituted, and when it had a president and a national reconciliation government, Israel instructed its agent 'Awn to rebel openly and reject legitimacy. Prior to this, the reckless general was performing his treacherous role under the cover of protecting legitimacy and awaiting the election of a new president. After he was exposed to the Lebanese people, 'Awn did not refrain from coordinating openly with his equal in treachery, Antoine Lahd, who rushed to support him, organized demonstrations in occupied southern Lebanon, and stuck 'Awn's pictures on his Israeli tanks. He even paved the way for an envoy of 'Awn to go to the Zionist entity to beg for its help in wrecking the peace process and bringing down the Lebanese legitimate government, which enjoys the support of the majority of the Lebanese people and the recognition of the whole world.

The real objective of Israel and its agent 'Awn is to abort the Arab solution in Lebanon and push the fraternal country, once again, into violence and devastation to partition it and to proceed from that point to threaten Arab security in general. Zionism mobilized all of its tools to serve that objective and massed all its resources to support the suicidal scheme it wants to implement through a Lebanese facade. The visit made by the French parliamentarians to 'Awn to exacerbate the differences and stir up emotions is part of that plan. Those parliamentarians were led by a deputy who wore the Jewish yarmulke and wailed at the Wailing Wall in occupied Jerusalem. He now claims he wants to protect a section of the Lebanese people, whom Israel wants to use as fuel in the fire to carry out its aggressive plots.

But Lebanon will not remain an open field for Israel and its agents. All sects of the Lebanese people, who foiled the Zionist invasion and who daily are opposing and resisting Israeli occupation and its agents in the south, will not allow a rebel officer who betrayed his homeland and people and violated military honor to lead Lebanon to the verge of collapse. Under their legitimate authority, that people can foil the plot and thwart the agents and rebels and their plots.

Lebanese legitimacy, supported by the Arab nation and the world community, definitely will know how to end the sedition and pluck the traitor from his den, because its destiny is to lead Lebanon, after 15 years of war and fighting, toward peace and security and building a fair, strong country. It possesses all it needs to achieve the goal all Lebanese seek, and no power will be able to defeat the overwhelming national resolve determined to achieve peace and reconciliation.

Papers Criticize 'Awn Supporters

JN0612080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Legitimacy is More Durable," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Since he captured B'abda Palace, 'Awn has not stopped dealing and coordinating with the Zionist enemy and Iraq's executioner in order to destroy Lebanon, facilitate the partitioning conspiracy, and establish weak statelets surrounding the Zionist entity, which will take on its image and problems, with one difference. This difference is the control and hegemony enjoyed by this entity, which would allow it in the future to pounce on its surrounding areas to achieve its expansionist ambitions.

AL-BA'TH adds: The insistence of 'Awn and his supporters on defying legitimacy clearly indicates adherence to the civil war option from which the Lebanese people have suffered a great deal. It also indicates an attempt to impose this terrible war on the legitimacy. 'Awn does not care if the homeland and its citizens are victims of his recklessness and whims.

Under the headline "Insistence on Accord and Solution," AL-THAWRAH says: It is not in the interest of Israel to have an Arab solution in Lebanon or to restore the role and vitality of Lebanese legitimacy. This is why it has ordered 'Awn to show disobedience, foil the national reconciliation and push it into the abyss of fighting and destruction. At the same time, it has instructed agent Lahd to expand the range of his aggressions against the peaceful villages in southern Lebanon through direct and large-scale support for it in an attempt to reshuffle cards, confuse the legitimacy, and instill despair in the Lebanese people regarding the possibility of saving Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds: However, the Lebanese people, who through their nationalist resistance foiled the 17

May agreement of submission and defeated the Israeli invasion and its objectives, will not allow Israel and its agents to play havoc with Lebanon or to push it into the abyss. They also will not allow the rebels to hamper the march of solution, accord, and salvation.

Papers Warn Against Compromise

JN0712080089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Insurgence and the Special Responsibility", AL-BA'TH stresses the legitimacy 'Awn has been claiming for himself was obtained through illegitimate and unconstitutional action; it was a usurpation of authority at gun point and under the threat of time. Today, Lebanese legitimacy has a president elected by the parliament, which has the power to do so. No one is contesting the legitimacy of this president, who symbolizes and embodies not only the legitimacy, but also the unity of Lebanon.

The game into which the reckless officer 'Awn was pushed is a dangerous game meant to abort national reconciliation and torpedo Lebanon's unity. Lebanese legitimacy is by no means against any area in Lebanon or any group of the Lebanese, especially the eastern region and its inhabitants. And because the Lebanese legitimacy was, and still is, for all the Lebanese, exclusive to none, it is a fortress for all, and constitutes a danger for no Lebanese party; it is a guarantee for all the Lebanese, not for a certain group of them. For Lebanon to triumph over disintegration and destruction and return to a unified country performing its Arab and humanitarian role effectively and strongly, there should be no fear or hesitation, and no room for toleration or compromise.

Under the headline: "The Nationalist Lebanon and the Bright Future", AL-THAWRAH stresses the Lebanese, Arab, and international acceptance of the al-Ta'if accord, and earlier of the Casablanca resolutions, necessarily entails comprehensive consensus on the need to foil the phenomenon of partition and agency that 'Awn represents. Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses the Lebanese people, who were very patient, never will forget. As they watch and store events in their memory, they will take the agents to account and soon put things in their right perspective.

Also discussing the Lebanese developments, TISHRIN says it has become clear to everyone after all all masks on his face have fallen, that insurgent 'Awn is the one waging the war and seeking Lebanon's destruction. TISHRIN adds: If 'Awn is trying to stall for time to create a de facto partition, President al-Hirawi says with full clarity the unity of Lebanese legitimacy cannot possibly be compromised or bargained, and that he gave a carefully-worked out deadline for good offices mediation to bear fruit, because legitimacy must either be a unified whole or not be at all. TISHRIN stresses the trend of unification led by President al-Hirawi believes detente is prevailing throughout the world, and, therefore, that this trend is determined to make certain Lebanon is destined to be unified, Arab, and independent; that the trend of partition has no future in Lebanon; and that the insurgent must fall after he lost all his masks and appeared as he truely is—holding his suicidal scheme, which will destroy him alone.

Ba'th Party Official on Lebanon, Israel, Iraq

JN0612212289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1552 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec (SANA)—Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has stated Syria, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, always has been aware of the dimensions and objectives of the Israeli scheme for Lebanon, which seeks to strike at the national unity of this fraternal country and establish on its soil sectarian cantons that are easy to dominate and swallow.

This came in a speech delivered today by Dr Qaddah during a ceremony in Dir'a in southern Syria, at which a monument was unveiled in the city. The monument lists Syria's accomplishments under President al-Asad. The ceremony also involved the inauguration of the 16 November square.

Dr Qaddah said Arab Syria has sought to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, diligently worked to achieve national unity there, and has made immense sacrifices to help the brothers end the bloody and destructive war there and eliminate the Israeli sedition in the country. He added: Nowadays, Lebanon is witnessing a decisive turning point in efforts to resolve its crisis, as the constitutional structures required for the reestablishment of legitimate institutions there have been rebuilt. Besides, a president for the republic has been elected and a national unity government has been formed.

Dr Qaddah affirmed Syria will continue to provide every possible assistance requested by the national unity government. He added: We are confident and sure our Arab people in Lebanon who defeated the Israeli aggression will be able to entomb the Zionized partition-seeking clique led by agent 'Awn. We are also confident the national unity government will manage to restore the territorial integrity of the country and reunify its institutions. As a result of this, Lebanon will regain its Arab and international role.

Dr Qaddah condemned the continued implementation by the fascist and rightist Iraqi regime of its treasonous role in the region through the financial and military support it has been providing to the Zionized clique in the Lebanese arena to deal a blow to Lebanon's unity. He asserted the Iraqi people will take their butchers to task and sweep all the conspirators who are divesting them of their right to freedom. The Iraqi people will end once and for all the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn, Qaddah said.

Comrade Qaddah also spoke on the intifadah staged by our people in the occupied homeland, the Golan, and heroic southern Lebanon. He added: This intifadah has confirmed the soundness of Syria's perspective and stand and exposed those who continued to offer numerous concessions. He asserted the road to a just peace is the road of right and sacrifices. He went on to say: Arab Syria will honor the pledge, support our struggling people in the occupied homeland, bolster their steps, and close the loopholes in the face of those who seek to act against the nation's will and envelop and abort the intifadah.

Comrade Qaddah said: The road of steadfastness, of building self-potential, and of achieving strategic parity is the road conducive to attaining a just and durable peace. He added Syria affirms this peace only is attainable through a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and a restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Dr Qaddah affirmed Syria has for the past 19 years been espousing the homeland's causes and the nation's aspirations regarding efforts to realize Arab unity. It has been demonstrating good faith in all this, he added. He indicated the failure to achieve this strategic objective made Syria look for an alternative dictated by confrontation and challenges. This alternative has been upholding the slogan of achieving Arab solidarity and developing the formulas of joint Arab action, since this would help rally efforts and mobilize the capabilities required to face up to the big challenge and the most dangerous enemy, which is targeting land and man and seeking to build a Biblical Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Comrade Qaddah praised the political, economic, and social accomplishments scored in the Syrian Arab Republic since the launching of the blessed Corrective Movement by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Vance, Murphy Meet With Al-Asad on Middle East

JN0612202289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today Mr Cyrus Vance, former U.S. secretary of state; Mr Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state; and their delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Mr Edward Djerejian attended the meeting. Talks centered on the Middle East situation and peace prospects in the region. The president stated Syria views convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices as the best framework for working for peace in the region. Talks also dealt with the Lebanese situation and some issues in world politics.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 5 Dec

Seeks 'Guidance'

JN0512195689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali this evening arrived in Damascus on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; section heads of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments; the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Upon his arrival, he expressed his happiness at visiting Damascus after attending the Riyadh meetings of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon to assess the achievements made thus far in the Lebanese arena.

He added: In view of the nature of relations between fraternal Syria and Algeria, I thought it would be good and useful to visit Damascus on my way home, to meet with the brothers in Syria to consult with them and exchange viewpoints, since fraternal Syria and the Arab tripartite committee have endeavored from the very beginning to help Lebanon in the march of peace and reconciliation.

He said during the visit he will discuss with Syrian officials issues of interest to the Arab nation, bilateral relations, and ways to improve and reinforce them. He also said: I also will seek guidance from the Syrian brothers on matters relating to the Arab nation.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN0612150089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1045 this morning Algerian Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. Ghazali conveyed to president Hafiz al-Asad greetings from Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid. President Hafiz al-Asad acknowledged President Bendjedid's greetings and asked Mr Ghazali to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Bendjedid and the fraternal Algerian people. Talks revolved around bilateral relations, the situation in Lebanon, and the steps for implementing the al-Ta'if accord.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0612175789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmed Ghazali left Damascus at noon today after a 1-day visit to our country.

He was seen off at Damascus international airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi, ranking officials at the Foreign Ministry, the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus, and embassy staff.

He made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he expressed satisfaction over his visit to Damascus, which forms part of discussions conducted between the two countries whenever the opportunity arises.

He also expressed his happiness and gratitude for the fraternal reception accorded him by President Hafiz al-Asad in which they discussed bilateral relations, the situation in Lebanon, and the steps taken to implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

Mr Ghazali called for uniting efforts and using all possible means to help the Lebanese people regain their unity in peace and independence.

He added the Arab tripartite committee has worked from the beginning to bring about peace through national accord and to remove the obstacles blocking and delaying its implementation and threatening it. He stressed the need to implement the al-Ta'if agreement—this important agreement for national accord.

Concluding his statement, Mr Ghazali said future steps will be taken by the Arab tripartite committee involving the international community and the Vatican.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on State of Nation

LD0212054189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0441 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR—Turkey and Afghanistan had very friendly relations during the time of Ataturk and Amanullah. In the last 15-20 years the relations of our countries are not satisfactory. This was stated by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with L. Dogan Tilc, a Turkish journalist on Nov. 28, 1989.

Religious and cultural ties have linked our people throughout the history in such a way that for Afghans Turkey was not an alien country. The honours of such renowned social and cultural personalities as Mawlana Jalaluddin Balkhi and Sa'id Jamaluddin Afghani [names as received], in whom the Afghan people take pride, are also shared by Turkey, he said.

After the April Revolution, we hoped that the Afghan Turkish relations in different areas and at various levels would become closer and more friendly. But regrettably, on account of foreign interference and an imposed war in Afghanistan and as a result of other factors, our hope has not been so far realized. Today, when the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has declared the policy of national reconciliation and the Soviet forces have left Afghanistan under the Geneva agreements, on the one hand, and democratic conditions have prevailed in Turkey, in the other, we think that there is no obstacle in the way of putting an end to the stagnant status of relations between the two countries.

As for the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned we are for friendly and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries not only in political, but also in social, economic, trade and cultural spheres.

Today the time has come that diplomatic relations between the two countries are to be promoted to a higher level.

Based on our new economic policy, we encourage foreign investments in Afghanistan in which Turkish investors will hold a special place. Moreover, we can begin cultural exchanges between Afghanistan and Turkey even from now. The fields that I have just mentioned above, can be a well-founded basis for the further expansion and consolidation of relations between the two countries in all fields in the interests of our peoples, President Najibullah stressed.

While touching on Turkey role in solving the Afghan problem President Najibullah said, Turkey with its authority and prestige among the Islamic countries and in the region can adopt effective measures in the solution of the Afghan problem. Besides, exerting pressure on countries and parties involved, Turkey can encourage them to a peaceful settlement. Moreover, it can play more vigorous role in international arena by taking a realistic stand towards the Afghan problem. Further, Turkish contribution to the reconstruction of the already ruined economy of Afghanistan and to the resettlement of Afghan refugees can be another sphere of Turkey's constructive involvement in the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem.

The trust of parties and governments can be grasped by their programmes and composition. The programme and composition of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan have never been communist. It should be said that the PDPA is a national progressive and democratic party whose programmes ensure the interests of all national and patriotic social strata and groups. At present, the political system in our country is a multi-party system, and our economy a multi-structural.

The fact that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has done a great deal to promote the sacred religion of Islam and is still doing so is quite natural, because the party and the state have risen from our Muslim people and are serving them. All provisions of Islamic shari'a and legislations are enforced in courts of law and in day to day life. The members of the party and state and our other Muslim people adhere to the provisions and laws of Islam. Thus, one can say that it is the fanatic Western circles who brand our party and state a communist hallmark, and that it is the same old policy of the Cold War time that called as communist any individual party or government unsuitable to the Western fanatics, he emphasized.

Since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy, major steps have been taken in social, political, economic and military fields.

The convocation of Loya Jirgah [Grand Assembly], adoption of the new constitution, formation of the National Assembly (parliament) after 15 years, setting up and commencing the activities of political parties and organizations, legalizing free press, lifting the monopoly of power, preparations on the part of the state for holding free elections under international supervision in order to form a broad-based national government, the release of many political prisoners, repatriation of more than 200,000 Afghan refugees, giving up of military activities by hundreds of thousands of armed and unarmed opposition, and, the conclusion of the Geneva agreements are the main achievements of the national reconciliation policy.

As the PDPA and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan are the initiators of the policy of national reconciliation, on whose basis they have relinquished from the monopoly of political power, we can confidently say that we fully believe in and convinced of the correctness of the policy as a whole.

As the PDPA and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan have boldly declared the policy of national reconciliation in a bid to cease war and bloodshed in the country, they shall not have any doubt in the sincere implementation of all its components. The adoption of this policy and the renunciation within its framework of the monopoly of the political power are in fact expressive of the strength enjoyed by the PDPA and the state, the Afghan leader went on.

Those who demand my stepping down should notice the fact that the Afghanistan problem can not be solved by the stepping aside of this or that person or this or that party or political force. But by coming together of all political forces, parties and figures of Afghanistan in and outside the country that will help find out a solution acceptable for all.

They should also know that by demanding so, they are not facing me alone. I am leading the PDPA, the strongest and most organized political organization in the country. Together with the PDPA there are six other political parties as its allies. Moreover, there are 8 public non-governmental organizations with 850,000 members in Afghanistan. All these forces have formed a great state, political and military system that enjoys strong armed forces. Therefore the stepping aside of such a great force and such a big political, social, state and military set up is far beyond reality, President Najibullah said.

The presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is a matter of the past. What, in my opinion, is more pressing and vital is the concentration of attention and pooling of efforts on future. We should seek ways and mean to put an end to the vicious circle of violence and bloodshed which is a direct outcome of foreign interference. To achieve this end [words indistinct] for a political settlement in which the Islamic world and the peace-loving countries can take a positive part.

I would like to stress that the policy of national reconciliation is not a transient and tactical move. It is rather a principled cause and our strategic aim which embraces various walks of the Afghan society, and under any circumstances, this policy will continue.

As for the implementation of the policy in the military sphere, our state is of the belief that the only solution to the Afghan problem is the political solution. The experience over the ten years of war demonstrated that the military solution does not have any future.

In Afghanistan which is an Islamic country, the state is in the service of Islam and our Muslim people. Freedom of religious rites and performances is ensured. The Centre for Islamic Research of Afghanistan established after the April Revolution was promoted to the level of Islamic Science University. For the first time in the history of Afghanistan, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trust was formed by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The amount of money the state has spent over the last ten years in the maintenance as well as construction of mosques and other holy places, subsidies for the hajj pilgrimage, allowances to clergies and imams and other expenses in various Islamic affairs is much greater than the sum spent for this purpose over the 50 years prior to the revolution.

The positions taken by political parties and organizations in Afghanistan, to the religion of Islam is clear, these parties and organizations which are formed of Afghans all adhere to the premises of Islamic shari'a, he remarked.

The Republic of Afghanistan is a multi-national country. The state pursues the policy of all-sided development, understanding, friendship and cooperation between all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups in the country in order to ensure political, economic social and cultural equity and rapid growth of underdeveloped areas.

To promote the culture, language and literature of all nationalities residing in the country, the state has undertaken necessary measures, preserving the culture, customs, language, literature and folklore of all nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups. Moreover, all the nationalities residing in the country are represented in all state bodies, including the National Assembly, the central apparatus and local adminstrative governmental bodies proportional to their percentage in the over-all population of the country. In the composition of the House of Representatives and the Senate, for instance, Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks Turkmens, Baluchis and other nationalities enjoy proportional seats, President Najibullah stressed.

While replying to another question of ten years war human and economic losses and casualities President Najibullah said, tens of thousands of the best sons of this land have lost their lives in their futile war and fratricide, and thousands of others have been mutilated, disabled, handicapped or displaced.

While the human losses of the war can not be compensated under any circumstances, and the losses incurred by our national economy are also colossal and huge which magnitude amounts to billions of afghanis. [sentence as received]

* Najibullah Discusses Reconcilation, Mujahidin

90OI0050A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
18 Nov 89 pp 3, 4

[Interview with President Najibullah in Kabul; first several paragraphs are introduction; date not specified]

[Text] At the present time, despite extensive international changes that are underway in the world, the nation of Afghanistan is still considered one of the important centers of international crisis, a crisis whose solution is faced with many problems. The Kabul government, by adopting a policy of national reconciliation on the one hand has attempted to find a political solution for the Afghan problem. On the other hand, however, all of the mujahidin groups have opposed all of the government's proposals, and still propose to fight until the Kabul regime is overthrown.

The chief reason the mujahidin give for continuing the war is their lack of confidence in the sincerity of the Kabul regime in its announced policies, along with the Afghan regime's dependence on the Soviet Union. Concerning international policies, those nations with influence in Afghanistan show little flexibility with regard to this nation's crisis. America and the Soviet Union, the two main countries supporting the two parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, continue giving arms assistance to the two sides and, along with this, countries such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia provide the resources needed to keep the fires of war burning in Afghanistan. General Najibullah, president of the Kabul regime, who came to power 4 years ago after Karmal stepped down, puts most of his effort into advancing the policy of national reconciliation, and at the same time he places great emphasis on strengthening the Army's military forces and deepening the influence of the [People's] Democratic Party [of Afghanistan]. What follows is the text of an interview with Najibullah by RESALAT's correspondent, held in Kabul.

This interview is being published solely to acquaint the readers with his positions, and has no intention to judge the rule of this regime in Afghanistan.

Foreign Policy Department

[RESALAT] At what stage of development is the regime's peace project with regard to the national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] The new peace plan of the government of Afghanistan and the mechanism for achieving it were explained clearly at the Ninth Conference of Leaders of Non-aligned Countries in Belgrade. Its main points are: the start of talks between the government and all opposition organizations and groups desiring peace, the formation of a national peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, the declaration of a 6-month cease-fire, the creation of a leadership council composed of representatives of the groups and parties participating in the national peace conference, the formation of a broad-based coalition government, convening the Grand Assembly to enact a constitution and an election law, holding national elections, and lastly, the formation of a government by the winning party or a coalition of winning parties.

We have also proposed the formation of an international conference to stabilize and guarantee permanent neutrality and make Afghanistan a non-military state. The government of Afghanistan's peace plan also includes the formation of a regional council to find a political solution for the Afghan problem.

This plan has received the support of a significant number of domestic commanders and individual Afghans abroad, and we will continue our activities to achieve this peace plan.

[RESALAT] It appears that the chief difficulty in advancing national reconciliation is the existence of past attitudes between you and the mujahidin. The chief element of that is the mujahidin's lack of confidence in your policy of reconciliation and your sincerity about stepping down from power. What practical steps have you taken or will you take to generate an atmosphere of confidence?

[Najibullah] Within the framework of national reconciliation, we have announced perhaps 30 proposals and plans. The biggest problem is that they have rejected our proposals.

We believe that talks and negotiations must be held to advance the course of reconciliation, and in this way a great many problems and difficulties can be solved. We have announced what we have done for our part, it is now the other side's turn to answer and take a step.

[RESALAT] At the same time you announced the policy of national reconciliation, you undertook a military buildup and a buildup of the intelligence organization (KHAD) and you have expanded the authority of the People's Democratic Party throughout the country. For this reason, the mujahidin believe that free elections are not practical and have no meaning.

[Najibullah] We are willing to hold elections, and we have announced they should take place under the direct supervision of the United Nations and that an international conference could even be formed to begin the elections and set election rules and laws. The United Nations could play a prominent role, or there could be a regional conference to control the elections. Under this option, there could be no election violations. Concerning the buildup of the Afghan military forces, I must say that we are now subject to clear and direct aggression from some countries. We have no choice but to preserve our independence and national sovereignty. Although we have chosen the path of peace, if we are attacked we consider defense our religious, lawful right. We will proceed with a military buildup to preserve the national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. We will also ask our friends for any kind of weapons that we need.

However, in order to stabilize the government of the Republic of Afghanistan in the area of peace and to hold elections in the event of the formation of an international or regional conference, we have announced that to guarantee a cease-fire and its integrity, we are willing to gather up all our arms and return them to the place from where they came, and if the armed opposition groups will also return their weapons to the place from where they came, then elections can be held. In other words, we will first take the weapons away from the people, and after their minds are freed we will hold elections. This is why we have proposed a general disarmament, which also includes the Army. All of our proposals have been rejected by the opposition.

The people of Afghanistan are a patriotic and freedom-loving people; they do not accept the interference and influence of foreigners in their country and are vigorously opposed to it.

[RESALAT] Your point is quite interesting, and that, along with the fact that the people of Afghanistan are against foreigners is in my view entirely correct. But the question is: In that spirit, how do you expect the mujahidin, who have fought with the soldiers and forces of the Soviet Union in their country for about 9 years, to come and sit at a table and talk about peace with you, who have compromised with the forces of the Soviet Union while you fought with them? Do you think this expectation of yours is realistic?

[Najibullah] Until yesterday, they fought a holy war because of the presence of the forces of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and they fought against them. However, why is it that after the departure of the Soviet Union's forces, the war they brought not only has not diminished, but has widened significantly and intensified?

Our feeling is that the opposing armed groups are continuing this war under the influence of the forces of the world and their international supporters, especially America. According to international law, countries do not have the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of another country, whether it is a neighboring country or not, nor to impose their policies and desires on others. I think the issue for the opposition who rejects peace and negotiations with us is something different. They not only have a problem with us, but with themselves; they cannot reach agreement among themselves. They have been sitting and talking together for more than 10 years, they form a council, make agreements, and even form a government. But when they are apart, their differences peak and they are at one another's throats.

They cannot reach firm and guaranteed agreements among themselves. Therefore, the reasons and problems why they will not negotiate are nothing more than excuses and are not realistic.

[RESALAT] Is the Afghan Government prepared to make more concessions to give assurances and give the mujahidin confidence in the national reconciliation policy?

[Najibullah] As I said, the Republic of Afghanistan has made about 30 unilateral proposals so far for holding talks and negotiations with the opposition groups, and concessions can be discussed and worked out at the negotiating table.

[RESALAT] You said that you believe you have the right to use any kind of weapons in the service of what you call the preservation of national sovereignty and defense of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan. How far are you willing to carry the war, and what kinds of weapons will you use?

[Najibullah] I said to you before that we have chosen the path of peace, and we want an independent, neutral, and non-aligned Afghanistan. If an international conference for peace in Afghanistan is held and the necessary guarantees are given that a cease-fire will not be violated and a cease-fire is declared, we will see no necessity for stockpiling and using weapons. We are not seriously in favor of storing weaponry and military equipment, and at this time the world is not pursuing that.

[RESALAT] However, at your talk at the party plenum, you announced that the Afghan Government gives itself the right to use any kind of weapon, and that it welcomes the great arms assistance of the Soviet Union.

[Najibullah] Do not forget that I just told you that at the same time we are also prepared, in the event of a cease-fire, to return our weapons to the same place we got them and to disarm the Army to advance the cause of negotiation for peace. However, when we are under attack and aggression, we will use any kind of weapon to defend ourselves, and we will get weapons from wherever we deem it suitable.

[RESALAT] The establishment of peace and tranquillity is the desire of all the Afghan people, and the question of when peace will be established in Afghanistan has been asked of me by many of the people of Kabul. As president of the Afghan Government, how do you see the future of peace in your country, and what hopes do you have for it?

[Najibullah] We are optimistic about a movement of circumstances in the direction of peace. If the existing aggression against our country from other countries ends, we see no obstacle to peace in Afghanistan. I believe, in view of the Geneva accords, as well as the international policies that are working to solve international conflicts, that the Afghan problem will also be solved through peaceful means. The past has also shown that a military solution will not produce results. Peace must be secured, and we are waiting for the opposition groups to return for talks and negotiations to secure peace, so that we can reach agreement with them to solve and put aside the Afghan problem.

[RESALAT] Will you allow mujahidin groups to return to the country unofficially and be active against you as opposition political forces, without accepting talks and negotiations with the government and the policy of national reconciliation, under an unannounced cease-fire?

[Najibullah] Of course, under the Constitution, all groups may play their part and be active in national political affairs as loyal or opposition political forces. However, their activities must be peaceful, and they must not be outside the framework of the Constitution and the interests of the nation.

[RESALAT] What is your view of the Pakistani Government's new position concerning Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Recent comments by Pakistani officials concerning a political solution to the Afghan situation are contradictory and lack the necessary stability. On the other hand, these comments have so far been merely talk, without practical support.

Pakistani officials have given their authority over to the Americans and the Wahhabis of Saudi Arabia. These people, using the military prerogatives Pakistan has given them, are busy carrying out acts of war and sabotage inside our country.

We hope that Pakistani officials, in light of recent developments, will turn to a political solution of the problem.

[RESALAT] At the recent plenum of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, 20 people became new members of the Central Committee, a number of whom had been imprisoned by the Afghan Government and you personally as criminals and murderers, and were recently released. The admission of these people as members of the party's Central Committee has become a challenge for the crimes of Hafizollah Amin among the people. How do you justify the membership of these people in the Central Committee?

[Najibullah] There is no relationship between the release of these people and their admission to the party at the plenum; that has to do with the national party conference.

These people requested party membership, and with the vote taken at the plenum they were elected to the Central Committee; this is an organizational matter. Their mistakes have to do with the time of the Amin government, and these mistakes do not exist now. I think people who made mistakes in the past should be given the opportunity to make amends. Another issue that must be considered with regard to the return of these people to the Central Committee is the emphasis on party unity. At this plenum, based on party unity, the decision was made for all political forces to come together, particularly the forces that had a role in the movement's formation and growth. In the past also, the matter of drawing these people to the party was studied, and the decision was made that by bringing forces together and studying critically the mistakes of the past that cause division and differences in the party, obstacles to unity would be eliminated, and there was success to an extent in this area.

[RESALAT] In your statement to the plenum of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, you also stressed unity and coordinated action of the parties of the left, and you formed the Leftist Forces Coordination Council. Please state what you mean by the left and leftist forces . Are you talking about forces and parties who have a communist ideology?

[Najibullah] You know that there are now seven political parties that operate officially and legally in Afghanistan. Among these are national, Islamic, and democratic parties and organizations. The forces of the democratic left, who united and formed the Leftist Forces Coordination Council, include the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], the Revolutionary Organization of Afghan Workers (SAZA) [Sazeman-e Enqelabi-ye Zahmatkeshan-e Afghanistan], the Organization of Afghan Workers (SZA) [Sazeman-e Zahmatkeshan-e Afghanistan], and the Young Workers of Afghanistan (KJA) [Kargaran-e Javan-e Afghanistan]. What I mean by leftist forces is these four groups. The reason these four groups are called leftist is not that they have Marxist and communist ideologies. These groups are distinct from the reactionary and backward left, for they have progressive and democratic ideas and believe in the process of national growth and progress. The leftist groups are nationalist groups!

[RESALAT] What is your view concerning the formation of an Islamic government in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Afghanistan is an Islamic nation and all of our people, with the exception of a small Hindu sector of 1 percent, believe in and have faith in Islam. It is no accident that in Article 2 of our country's Constitution it says: "The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan. In the Republic of Afghanistan, no law may be made that violates the principles and commands of Islam and the other values embodied in this Constitution."

[RESALAT] How many Iranian citizens are now in Afghanistan's prisons? Can you say when they will be released?

[Najibullah] As I said to you in Belgrade, a number of Iranian prisoners have been freed and, at the present time, I have no information on the number of Iranian prisoners in Afghanistan. If an Iranian citizen is in prison here, inform me so that measures can be taken to release him.

Keshtmand Chairs Meeting of Executive Committee

LD0612072789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 5, BAKHTAR—The plenary session of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, was held here today.

The master plan of Towraghoudi city, Herat Province, was studied and discussed. It was pointed out that the general plan of Towraghoudi city has been drawn up by the project-making Central Institute of Housing Construction Administration based on geological and topographical survey and the said plan has taken into account the environmental conditions for another twenty years.

The master plan of Towraghoudi city covers an area of 70 hectares of land and accomodate about fifteen thousand people containing residential zones, parks, avenues, cultural centres, transportation and other aspects.

In today's session, the activity of cultural services in Kabul city was also discussed and was pointed out that the supply of cultural services plans a significant role in the development of culture, and rites and traditions of the people. It was noted at the session that the pursuance of a policy for the all-sided growth of culture constitutes the basic duties of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The report of Control and Investigation Department of the Council of Ministers on the grant of credit by Bank-i Melli Afghan (National Bank) and the problem of the untimely repayment of the debt by the debtors were also studied. In order to take care of the flaws existing in this respect, appropriate instructions were given to the Afghanistan Bank and other concerned organs.

The third addendum of the Law on Military Service regarding the payment of pension to the soldiers of the Armed Forces who become disabled, crippled or die during their regular tasks and other subjects were considered and necessary decisions were made upon them.

'Extremists' Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul

LD0612185989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan-backed extremists committed another crime against our faithful people by firing three U.S. long range surface-to-surface rockets at residential and crowded areas of Kabul city. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this shameful act, which was mounted in keeping with state terrorist plans of Pakistan and the United States, three of our compatriots were martyred and four others, including women and children, were injured. The wounded were immediately taken to hospitals and they are under intensive treatment.

Mujahidin Down Helicopter in Lowgar Province

BK0712085889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have shot down a Kabul regime military helicopter at (Zadagar Qaleh) in the Mohammad Agha District of Lowgar Province. According to the MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the Afghan Interim Government news agency, the mujahidin also attacked the Kabul regime forces engaged in constructing a new bridge on Kabul-Hayratan Highway, a very important route for the supply of military and civil supplies from the Soviet Union. During the attack, the mujahidin captured 2 Kabul regime officers and 60 soldiers.

India

New Cabinet Announces Convening of Parliament

BK0612160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The government is to convene an all-party meeting on the Punjab, set up a cabinet committee to control prices, and introduce a lokpal [ombudsman] bill in the coming session of Parliament. The next session of Parliament is to be convened during the third week of this month.

These are among the series of important decisions taken by the new Council of Ministers in its first meeting in New Delhi this evening. The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, presided over the meeting, which lasted about 2 hours. Our correspondent says that all the 12 decisions taken today relate to major contemporary issues and are based on the ruling National Front policy program.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said that a cabinet committee to control prices will be headed by the finance minister. It will pay special attention toward bringing down prices of sugar and edible oils.

It was decided to set up another cabinet committee to study problems in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The all party meeting on Punjab is to be called as early as possible and the Sarkaria Commission report on center-state relations will be processed expeditiously.

The meeting decided that every minister will give a statement on his own assets and the assets relating to his wife and dependent children.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which is to lapse in coming January is to be extended for another 10 years.

Regarding autonomy to AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [television], the ministers decided to set up a committee to spell out details so that a bill on the subject could be introduced soon. A cabinet committee will be formed out to work out details regarding introduction of the right to information in the Constitution and amendment of the Official Secrets Act. The meeting decided to reduce exposure of the prime minister on Doordarshan.

One more cabinet committee will be set up to work out details to include the right to work in the Constitution. It was also decided to reduce ostentatious security measures.

Prime Minister Visits Punjab, Golden Temple

BK0712075489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, today offered prayers in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. He was accompanied by the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal; the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed; and the external affairs minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral.

The prime minister was received at the temple by the general secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temples management] Committee, Mr Manjit Singh Calcutta, and other committee members. Mr Singh spent about 40 minutes at the temple.

After offering prayers, the prime minister left for Jalianwala Bagh. He will also visit Durgiana Temple.

Earlier on his arrival in Amritsar, the prime minister was received by the Punjab chief secretary, Mr R.P. Ojha; the home commissioner, Mr S.L. Kapoor; the director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, and other officials.

Comments on Hindu-Muslim Issues

BK0712091789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has said that an all-party meeting will be convened soon to solve the Punjab problem. Addressing a news conference at Amritsar airport at the end of his 3-hour-long visit to the holy city, Mr V.P. Singh declared that his government wants to move very fast to solve the vexing issues. The prime minister, accompanied by the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal; the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed; and the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, visited the Golden Temple and Durgiana Temple this morning and offered prayers. Mr Singh said he has full faith in the people of Punjab, and both Hindus and Sikhs have sacrificed together and have made tremendous contribution during freedom struggle. He also lauded the role of Punjab in the development of agriculture and industry.

In reply to a question whether all factions of the Akali Dal and other groups will be invited for talks, the prime minister said some steps will be taken in this regard after the all-party meeting is held.

Our correspondent, Ratan Salve, who accompanied the prime minister, reports that there was confidence and hope among the people who came out in large number to listen to Mr V.P. Singh. The prime minister moved freely among the people in the Golden Temple complex dispensing with all security measures. He moved in an open jeep in the walled city of Amritsar. The prime minister, the deputy prime minister and other ministers also visited the Jalianwala Bagh and paid homage to the martyrs. The secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee, Mr Manjit Singh Calcutta, described the prime minister's visit to Amritsar as a goodwill gesture of the central government. The prime minister has since returned to the capital.

Former Minister Refutes Statement on Economy

BK0612130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The former finance minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, has welcomed the suggestion of a section of the Janata Dal leaders for bringing out a white paper on the state of the economy in the country. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, he deplored as self denigrating the statement of some Janata Dal leaders that the government coffers are empty and the economy is in a shambles.

Mr Chavan said that when the Rajiv Gandhi government was in office, the need for certain hard decisions like curbing expenditure and reducing non-essential imports were recognized and steps had been initiated in that direction. The former finance minister also spoke about the remarkable increase in the exports and record collection of income tax and excise.

Mr Chavan, however, admitted that there are some imbalances which are to be corrected through hard decision. The latest World Bank report, Mr Chavan said, was an eloquent testimony to the sound and good shape of the Indian economy.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech on Impact of Western Culture

LD0612162289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting with nurses, doctors, and other visitors on 6 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] It is relevant in this meeting to commemorate the beloved memory of the dear martyrs who came from the same towns and cities as you dear brothers and sisters. It was your valuable services, efforts, and unconditional presence in the battlefields and behind the frontlines, and your service to the revolution which enabled the magnificent Islamic revolution to find its roots and become consolidated. Today the glitter of Islamic revolution in the world, despite all the propaganda darkness and the misty atmosphere which has been created around this revolution, has attracted many looks.

Now the issue which I need to discuss is that all the people of our country, particularly those strata who have awareness, knowledge, ability, and science, should know the independence of a nation will be achieved only through the attainment of cultural independence. If a nation is not influenced politically by great powers, and if it reaches a state of economic self-sufficiency, yet the culture, morality, ideas, and beliefs of enemies and foreigners continue to dominate that society, then that nation cannot claim to be independent. When the end of the cultural thread is in the hands of those in the world who determine the style of clothing and life, the code of social behavior, ethics, and knowledge, for unaware and innocent people the world over, thereby setting a model for them; if a nation is able to rid itself of this poisonous wave of a culture which is manufactured, devised, and disseminiated by foreigners, and thereby safeguards itself from that culture, then the nation or entity can be independent. If it can not do so, however, if it remains under the influence and domination of an alien culture devised by enemies and foreigners, then that nation is a dependent nation. It is a captive nation, and no matter how independent it might be in political and economic spheres, it will still be dominated by those who hold and control the end of the cultural thread.

Today, hundreds of radio stations, newspapers, and magazines the world over, are broadcast and published daily and weekly for the purpose of spreading the culture of global arrogance or a culture desired by the world's power brokers, throughout the nations. They will show greater enmity toward those who oppose their culture than those who negate their polity and who confront their political decisions, because they know that the impact of culture is indeed more profound and more detrimental. You may ask this question: What is this Western culture, the culture of the United States and Europe, from which we must distance ourselves, and close our minds? This is an appropriate question, and since the victory of the Islamic revolution, our people have understood the answer to this question to a large extent.

However, I would like to say a few words on this matter. Western culture is one that plans to corrupt human beings, a culture that attacks and negates humanity's virtues and characteristics. It is a culture in the hands of the lords of money and coercion, and the emperors of power. This culture is a tool in their hands, and by using it, they intend to deprive generations from all human virtues and to transform human beings into unaware, obedient, and beseiged creatures. They intend to take the attention of people away from God and spirituality. Their interests can only be achieved through such methods.

They try, therefore, to spread this culture. This culture of nakedness and the limitless mixing of men and women—which is one of the main foundations of Western culture—was founded from the first day for the purpose of dragging human beings into the arena of corruption. They seek to corrupt men and women each in a different way, thereby depriving them of humanity's virtues. They do not really care about humanity.

The same capitalists who own and control the biggest factories and the most important world resources and mines, also own the biggest radio and television stations. The Zionist organizations, who have been planning and programming the corruption of generations of people for about 100-200 years, have begun their process of spreading corruption and decadence among people. They have deprived women of their chastity. European and American women have not been so distanced from human ethical virtues as they have been during the last 50 or 60 years, let alone the women from Islamic countries and remote nations. [sentence as heard] They have dragged men into the arena of corruption, comfort-seeking, debauchery, and consumerism. They have forced them to succumb to beastly life styles, so that they do not feel threatened by men and women who live under the oppression and tyranny of such powers the world over. [passage indistinct]

Today if you see many families in our country and men and women in our country who still really crave to dress in the same way and walk in the same way and adopt the same attitudes and live in the same manner that their traitor, abject Western teachers taught them, this is due to the influence of the growth of Western culture during the length of the past decades—until the revolution came and brought about a massive change in the culture and minds of people. Many people who still long for the quality of a Western life-style do not know the corruption that life entails. Western life is filthy and corrupt. It is a life in which none of the genuine human foundations can remain healthy. The family does not remain healthy in it, nor human personality—neither that of men or women.

Look around you today and see [passage indistinct] and these are intensifying every day and this is the last blow. The family is the place of tranquillity and comfort for human beings. No human being can taste the true flavor of human life without it. They are [words indistinct] this genuine foundation and destroying and eliminating it.

What are they searching for? This is what Western culture is about. These are the things that follow these freeedoms and wanton ways. These are the things that are involved in the culture of nudity [farhang-e berehnegi] and the nonexistence of barriers among women and men in society. They accuse us and they know themselves that this accusation is false, that we do not place importance on the educational and cultural growth of women; they know that this is a lie but they repeat it. It is not so. We place true human value on women. We do not place any difference between men and women [as heard]. We believe women and men are both human beings and the arena of development is open to them. They will grow and develop in proportion to the same amount of endeavor and struggle and measure as they advance toward God. The path of knowledge too is open to both of them. The path of political presence is also open.

We witnessed the fact that during the revolution the role of women, if not greater, was certainly not less than men. The same applies to their role in the war. If the women did not eulogize the epics of the war, if women did not consider the war as a value, within their households, then men would not have found the will and motivation to go to the arenas of war. Dozens of factors are involved in the dispatch of the great army of the basijis [Mobilization of the Oppressed] to the fronts. One of the most important of these factors is the morality of mothers and wives, the morality of women. I sometimes have meetings with the dear and respected families of the martyrs, and up to now I am perhaps able to claim that I have not seen a mother with a broken spirit in these families. Of course, not all families are the same or think alike. Some are stronger and some weaker, some have not grasped clearly the point in question. Some have grasped reality with the utmost clarity. But in all the families that we met, or in the majority of them, we found that women had stronger morals than men. [audience chants "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

This is the situation of women in our society; but they are driving—not only women but men and women—down the path of the decadent and corrupt precipice of moral collapse. Our people must open their eyes and ears. A return to the corrupt and decadent Western culture in our revolutionary and Islamic society is impossible [mahal] and forbidden [mamnu']. It is not possible for such a thing to come about and for our nation, officials, and our revolution to permit that once again, the behavior and life of people should move toward the same things that the corrupt Western culture had injected in our nation, had imposed on our nation by force.

Those who have read the history of the arrival of unveiling [bihejabi] and nudity—the nudity of women—in our society which was carried out by the sinister Pahlavi dynasty—and those who are old enough and witnessed those days know—know how they imported into our society and country the practice of not wearing the veil and the absence of barriers and limits among men and women and imposed these on our people. This was not something that our people could easily accept. They imposed these on people. Unfortunately, due to the fact that two to three generations from that day to the day of the victory of the Islamic revolution had lived under the heavy and sinister shadow of the Pahlavi dynasty, a group of people were born into this culture, did not understand its (?decadence), did not aspire to the health and purity that is in the Islamic atmosphere of pure Islam. Our mass media were unable to inform them about Western culture.

It is here that the duty of the Voice and Vision in presenting the glories of Islamic culture in all fields, notably, in the area of relations between men and women and the status of women in society, becomes obvious. The Voice and Vision has great responsibility. Radio and television are not merely organs for entertainment; they are also instructive organs and today all the world is using radio and television for the purpose of teaching. Some people are using these organs cleverly and efficiently. These same Zionists who are spending huge amounts of money and billions of dollars yearly on their radios and televisions are teaching and instructing. But what are they teaching? The same thing they want themselves: corruption.

In these countries, in which corrupt leaders rule in a state of exploitation and dependence, just like these reactionary countries and those similar to them, radio and television are instructing people. And what is it teaching them? Negligence, complacency, debauchery [shahvatrani], hedonism, and drinking. If they do not teach their people these things and if people develop with that same indigenous and Islamic and religious—any religious—culture, then the powers and the colonialists and the despotic rulers cannot rule over them that easily.

If you were to switch on any of these foreign radio stations that broadcast to their own people, you will see that it is full of corruption. They present people with complacency, negligence, and a lack of attention to the affairs of life and society. It is possible that alongside these evils they may present a word or two extracted from some scholarly source by teaching people—but the essence of the matter is otherwise. Those radios and televisions targetted to Islamic countries and our country in particular, and are managed from abroad, are also in the process of teaching. This media is a tool for teaching and training, for winning hearts and minds and brains and spirits toward the aims of the managers of those media. It cannot be otherwise in those countries.

In the Islamic Republic, the Voice and Vision should be a means of attracting people to Islamic culture, a tool for informing and teaching people about Islamic and human glories. It has no right to be anything else. Anything other than this should not be broadcast, and artists and writers and announcers, producers, and actors all must unite to produce programs that contain these valuable and brilliant Islamic concepts so that people can learn from them.

When we say that the Voice and Vision should educate, you should not think we mean there should only be lectures. Education is not limited to lectures alone; education is not just roundtable discussions, education is not just giving lessons on the Voice and Vision. Programs on the arts, films, and plays should employ various artistic techniques to promote the meaning of Islamic teachings and to clarify Islamic values in society. Without this the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic will not be an Islamic Voice and Vision. [audience shouts approval]

You brothers and sisters who, praise be to God, are endowed with science and understanding because you have studied, passed scientific courses, and have worked hard, are familiar with books and are perhaps familiar with the alien culture, must shoulder a heavier burden of responsibility. The Islamic system is a system which observes all the Islamic instructions and laws in full, the source of pride for the nation and the country, the source of honor for mankind, the source of prosperity for the earth, our country, and the region of inhabitation, and a source of joy for the living environment, of stability in the family, of improving social ties among the people, and of mankind's material and spiritual happiness.

You are dutybound to become familiar with all these programs. You should know all these programs and everyone should strive to implement these programs as far as possible. First of all, the responsibility is shouldered by the educated, aware, and knowledgeable individuals in society. On the first level are the religious 'ulema and then all those who have some degree of awareness and knowledge and can educate and teach the people. Your deeds must contribute more than your words toward advancing the people along this true path. This is the same path that our great imam [Khomeyni] used to tell us about in his many speeches from the start of the revolution's victory until the last days of his blessed life. He used to instruct us and the entire nation and he made the revival and implementation of Islam the slogan of the Islamic Republic.

We hope that Almighty God will grant success and mercy on you all the brothers and sisters. May God grant us the ability to strive toward realizing Islamic commandments, God willing, so that our nation and society can witness the full implementation of Islam in our society soon. May God's peace and blessings be upon you all. [audience shouts slogans praising Khamene'i]

Velayati Meets France's Scheer in Tehran

LD0712114389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Francois Scheer, the secretary general of France's Foreign Ministry, in the course of a meeting with our country's foreign minister Mr Velayati, this morning, discussed the talks on the financial dispute between the two countries. He reiterated France's determination to find a speedy solution to this problem. Referring to his country's desire to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], he said: With regard to improving relations between the two countries, we are moving toward having a mechanism for describing our own policies and understanding your views.

Mr Velayati, too, in this meeting expressed the hope that serious and big steps will be taken to resolve the dispute between the two countries, and the French Government, through a speedy solution of this problem, will remove the current obstacles in the path of expanding ties.

Also during this meeting, issues related to the developments in Lebanon and the talks on implementing Security Council Resolution 598 were discussed and views were exchanged.

About Lebanon, Mr Velayati said: In view of the existing complexities in this country, any support for the illegal and warmongering factions will intensify tension in Lebanon. The continuation of a calm, balanced treatment of various groups and preparation of the grounds to enable the people of Lebanon to take charge of their own destiny and respect the rights of the majority of the nation can contribute toward resolving Lebanon's crisis.

About the talks on implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and the visit of the secretary general's personal envoy, Mr Velayati said: Within the framework of the agenda of Eliasson's visit we proposed to begin exchanging POW's simultaneously with the withdrawal of forces, which was a major step for breaking the impasse in the talks.

Mr Francois Scheer, referring to his country's policy on Lebanon, said: We understand Lebanon's problems and do not wish to concentrate our policy on serving the interests of a certain group. He added: We accept that a lot remains to be done in order to create a balance in Lebanon, and one should start from some point.

About the talks on implementing Resolution 598, while expressing support for the secretary general's efforts, referring to Iran's new proposal, Scheer said: We noticed this major development in the Security Council and we welcome it.

Talks on France's 'Debt Issue'

LD0612184489 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The first round of talks concerning France's outstanding loan to Iran, was held today between Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi and France's first Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Scheer.

The French official, whose country was one of the principal backers of the Ba'thist regime during the imposed war, arrived here this morning to hold talks on the debt issue. Scheer terming 'useful' the first round of bilateral talks, expressed hopes of reaching a solution.

In Paris yesterday, on the eve of his departure for Tehran, Francois Scheer conferred with Iranian Ambassador 'Ali Ahani on the debt issue. The two also discussed U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

In 1974, the deposed shah granted a billion dollar loan to France's Atomic Energy Commission, and later in 1977, the former regime provided a French firm with 350 mn [million] francs (53 mn dlrs).

Of the 1 billion dollar loan to the Atomic Energy Commission, Paris has so far repaid 630 mn dlrs, but the loan has gathered considerable interest over the years. Iran is also seeking compensation from French firms for cancelling agreements after the Islamic revolution triumphed in Iran in 1979.

Commentary on Scheer's Mission

LD0612213989 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr Francois Scheer has once again come to Tehran in order to hold talks with the Iranian officials for the improvement of Tehran-Paris relations. This is the second visit to Tehran by Francois Scheer, general secretary of the French Foreign Ministry, which takes place following the embassies war.

Relations between Tehran and Paris are multidimensional, and it would be better for Iran and France to settle issues in all fields. However, if improvement of relations in various fields is done simultaneously, that would be an ideal case.

Relations between Iran and France have faced many ups and downs during the past 10 years. Some individuals, even inside the French Foreign Ministry, believe that in adopting the kind of policy against the Islamic Iran, which was a hostile in the past, France has made a mistake and that it has been due to receiving wrong information concerning the Islamic revolution.

Mr Daniel Mitterrand [name as heard] has gone to Baghdad in order to have talks on Iraqi debts and sell more arms. However, Mr Scheer has come to Tehran to pay back France's debts to Iran.

Irano-French common interests are not restricted to the two states' geographical boundaries. Tehran and Paris can have difference of interests in various parts of the world, like in Chad or Lebanon; Paris understands it well. And the reason why we hope relations are surveyed in all their aspects is that there are many agents and elements on the way to disturb the relations.

Another issue which has not been dealt with seriously so far is the French Government's attitude toward the Iranians residing in France. We have received regrettable reports that the French police in Paris and other cities do not treat the Iranians fairly. Maltreatments, [words indistinct] excuses toward extension of resident permits for the Iranians, even those who hold resident cards with 10 years of validity, are only matter that cause problem and dissatisfaction for the Iranian families residing in France, especially the family members of the Iranian students there. [sentence as heard] The formality for receiving an entry visa to France for the Iranians are too difficult. Today we live in a world where no one is restricted or imprisoned in his house, city, or country.

If relations between the two countries are to be warm, merely signing of trade contracts is not sufficient to guarantee continuation and efficiency of the relations. There are cultural steps and accurate humanistic steps and attitudes based on international law which can enjoy a higher degree of respect.

At any rate, the French nation more than any other nation in Europe understands the Islamic revolution, and the French Muslims, too, expect the Islamic Iran to act in accordance with that. One of the important duties of France is to preserve the rights of the French Muslims, and so long as the contrary has not been proved we can be optimistic that Paris will undertake its mission in the best possible manner. As an example, the verdict issued by the French State Court concerning Islamic scarf is a sign of France's respect for the pleas of the French Muslims. Mr Francois Scheer cannot claim that he would be successful in his mission only if financial problems have been solved. Rather, the most important part of his mission is to convey the opinions and ideas about other cases to Paris.

Soviets To Assist in Azarbayjan Dam Construction

LD0512213389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Executive operations on dams of Khoda-Afarin and (?Qeys-Qal'eh) in East Azarbayjan Province will begin early next year [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1990] with the cooperation of experts from the Soviet Union. With the implementation of such projects, part of the electricity needed by our country will be supplied. Furthermore, 70,000 hectares of land around Khoda-Afarin will be irrigated.

The Central News Unit reports from Tabriz that the above news was announced in the meeting between the expert team of a delegation from the Soviet Union's Energy Ministry and the governor-general of East Azarbayjan Province. According to the same report, the delegation travelled to Azarbayjan following agreements reached between the governments of Iran and the Soviet Union to carry out final research on the implementation of dam construction projects in Khoda-Afarin and (?Qeys-Qal'eh). Today, the delegation also discussed with provincial officials plans concerning the transfer of energy between the two Azarbayjan Provinces [east and west]. Furthermore, grounds for cooperation between Soviet Azerbaijan and the Iranian Azarbayjan in commercial, industrial, mining, and agricultural fields, were reviewed and discussed.

President Chairs 6 Dec Cabinet Meeting

NC0712095289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the chair. IRNA reports that during this session, the cabinet commemorated the second anniversary of Palestine's Islamic uprising and re- emphasized the Islamic Republic's decisive and comprehensive support for the Palestinian people's struggles.

The session continued with discussions on the reports submitted by the public welfare and industrial committees, and a number of proposals tendered by executive organs were approved.

Also, the articles of association of the Iran, Asia, Alborz, and Dena insurance companies as well as the amendment to the decision by the Supreme Tribal Council were approved by the cabinet. According to the amendment, the Supreme Tribal Council's secretariat will meet at the Construction Jihad Ministry under the supervision of the Minister of Construction Jihad who will be the secretary of the Supreme Tribal Council, and will be headed by the first vice president.

The report also states that the cabinet members were then briefed on the problems emanating from the flood in several provinces of the country and it was decided that all the country's executive organs mobilize their capabilities to help the flood victims. Also, the necessary budget for supplies and for reconstruction was also allocated.

IRNA reports that at the end of yesterday's cabinet meeting, it was decided to open account number 89000 in Melli Bank's central branch to help the oppressed Muslims of Palestine.

* Karrubi's Speech at 14 Nov Majles Session

90OI0045A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Nov 89 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Political Service:

The open session of the Majles was held this morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi presiding.

In this session, the Majles speaker spoke about the slaughter of Muslims in India, occupied Palestine and Lebanon, the establishment of a Hezbollah nucleus throughout the world and the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the rights of Muslims.

Also in this session, the representatives of Bukan and Khaf spoke on giving priority to industry and agriculture in the five-year plan, the implementation of Article 49 of the Constitution regarding investigating the capital of hoarders and price hikers, and the needs of their constituencies.

In addition, the general points of the employment bylaws of the accounting office were ratified.

Below you will first read the speech of the Majles speaker and then the pre-agenda speeches of the representatives.

The Majles Speaker's Address

Following the speeches of two Majles representatives, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, the Majles speaker, spoke about the slaughter of Muslims in India and occupied Palestine and about the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Muslims throughout the world. He said: "There are more than a billion Muslims around the world, and large countries with vast resources and abundant reserves are at the disposal of Muslims. However, most unfortunately, because such resources and manpower and the rich Islamic ideology are not properly utilized and also, most unfortunately, because most governments in the Islamic world are affiliated with global oppression, we see that throughout the world Muslims are victims of much injustice; there is no one to defend their rights against oppression and defend the beliefs of our nation."

He said: Today we witness the slaughter of Muslims in India. Unfortunately, the police do not protect them, but rather support their aggressive and oppressive opposition. We also witness the mass slaughter of Muslims in the occupied lands and Palestine. Every night we witness the crimes committed by the occupying Zionist regimes against the owners of that land and that nation while the world of human rights remains silent.

The Majles speaker said: Part of Lebanon is occupied, and they have made of that country a ruin. Tribalism governs, and some Islamic countries even help the enemies of Islam there. The al-Ta'if agreements brought nothing but disgrace to the Muslims and those who were involved in it.

The Majles speaker added: And in every corner of the civilized world of human rights we witness a situation. In France, the beliefs of the Islamic nation are ridiculed because of veiling, and although statements were retracted, Muslims were attacked. In that world of human rights, Anis Naqqash is dying in some prison corner, and Kurosh Fuladi has been tortured for years in the human rights prisons of England. This is the situation in which Muslims find themselves. They are oppressed throughout the world, and we have no way out of it. When I say we, I mean we Muslims. The only recourse for Muslims is to unite and cooperate, particularly in the face of the existence of these governments affiliated with global heathenism and the Great Satan, who are against Islam and Muslims. They have no other choice but to pay attention to the statements of the imam, which is that the Hezbollah nucleus must be established throughout the world. It is they who can defend our rights. We declare our disgust and abhorrence for what has happened to Muslims and will hurry with everything in our power to help Muslims, including those in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, and India, and all Muslims around the world. We will help them and ask them to return to beloved Islam to maintain their rights and establish the Hezbollah nucleus in order to defend their rights. We witness and see how the fascist Wahhabi Saudi Government beheads the hajjis and pilgrims to the house of God. In the same way that Israel and Zionists massacre Muslims, they too are ready to massacre Muslims, because both receive support from the same source, and their actions are in the interests of the United States and global heathenism and oppression.

In conclusion, he expressed congratulations and condolences to the family of Ahmad Qaysar on the occasion of his martyrdom.

Speech of the Representative of Bukan

Ahmad Taha, the representative of Bukan, was the first speaker at today's open session. He said: Now that by the grace of God the regime of the Islamic Republic is in its reconstruction phase and is planning to repair the damage, restore buildings, build roads, start up factories and production, industrial and affiliated workshops, and expand cultural, educational, and academic units, the implementation of these projects and programs requires general mobilization and the cooperation of the people and the government. The secret to success and progress is in unity and cooperation. The key to victory is self-sacrifice, and the implementation of equity and justice will ensure salvation and survival.

He added: Our responsible officials, experts, and planners must view the country and the people of Iran with farsightedness and wisdom in the mirror of time and beyond the programs, projects, and plans, declare how fast our progress will be in its various dimensions compared with the progress of other countries, and in the race in science, industry, and technology, what our movement should be and how far we can reach.

Then, referring to the need to eliminate poverty and oppression, the representative of Bukan said:

Fortunately, during the visit between the representatives of the underprivileged areas and the president, the issue of the elimination of poverty was discussed, and I shall now point out the important views, proposals and reminders in this connection.

1. The declaration of a week called "the Week To Eliminate Being Underprivileged and the Fight Against Poverty," during which all the media and all ministries, agencies, and organizations will be mobilized to concentrate their actions. And what could be better than to start this week coinciding with 15 Sha'ban [eighth month of the Arabic lunar year], which is a holiday for Shiites and Sunnis and the day of the oppressed.

2. Permission be granted to ministries, organizations, institutions, and agencies to devote 1 day to 1 month per year to the underprivileged regions.

3. In order to eliminate oppression and fight cultural poverty, higher education is recommended to revitalize and preserve the five regions. It is also recommended that the student quota for those areas be maintained, because after they complete their education, these students will return eagerly to their own regions and work to revitalize and build them.

4. In the five-year plan, special attention should be paid to providing housing and dormitories and granting signature loans and interest-free loans as well as educational aid to students.

Taha then spoke about the problems in the area of his constituency and thanking Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the Majles speaker, for his attention to the Martyrs Foundation of the Islamic revolution in Bukan in the past year, he asked him to reopen the closed files of Bukan and the region.

He also extended a reminder to the Ministry of Education regarding promoting the level of education in the region of Bukan and also the building of teacher training schools and asked the Ministries of Energy and Plan and Budget to take steps to build a dam and flood dam on the "Simineh River."

Taha asked the Ministry of Agriculture in the future and in the five-year plan to increase and provide the shares of such items as tractors, agricultural machinery and tools, seeds, fertilizer, and loans and to build agricultural production workshops in the Bukan region.

He also extended reminders to the Ministry of Petroleum about the natural gas outreach of Bukan, to the Ministry of Roads and Transport about the construction of the Margheh-Bukan railroad, and to the physical education agency about an indoor athletic court and an athletic field in Bukan.

In conclusion, Taha asked the officials to help provide jobs for unemployed youths in the Bukan region.

Speech of the Representative of Khaf

The second speaker at today's open session was Hoseyn Najafi-Sani, the representative of Khaf, who said: The issue of the five-year plan is now being discussed in the Majles, and it is only proper that the officials avoid interviews and expressions of opinion before it has been completed and ratified in the Majles so that problems will not ensue in the future.

He added: Today, despite all the problems for the officials and the people caused by our enemies as a result of the war, the only way to make the people happy is for the regime's officials to respond to the problems of the people with cheerful and kind faces from the capital to the most remote villages and borders. Connections and favoritism must be replaced in the offices with competition and regulations.

As the law has determined, everyone must act to protect the regime and the revolution and resolve the people's problems beyond a group or mob-style mentality. Today people have expectations, and attention must be paid to expertise and specialization along with commitment. Attention must be paid to accomplishments during working hours in offices and organizations. All organizations, particularly the Judiciary, must send inspectors from the capital to all parts of the country to inspect the work of offices and organizations and determine how people are being treated.

He then referred to the problems in the region of his constituency and said: Since the revolution, proper attention has not been paid to the developmental, economic, and industrial problems of the vast province of Khorasan.

I ask the executive officials to pay more attention to the Khorasan region, considering the geographic, border, and religious problems of the region.

Pointing out the importance of steel production in Khorasan, he referred to the technical ore mines of Sangan in Khaf and asked the Ministry of Mines and Metals to pay more attention to this iron ore mine.

Najafi-Sani also expressed the following memoranda to the ministries and executive organizations:

1. To the Construction Jihad Ministry about the operations of the Construction Jihad of Khaf, Roshkhar, and Torbat-e Heydariyyeh.

2. To the Ministry of Education about the agricultural art school of Roshkhar, regarding which the problem has become political, and even though the preliminary work had been completed 5 years ago, it has not been started.

3. To the Ministry of Agriculture about investigating the situation of the rural cooperative company of Roshkhar.

4. To the physical education agency about building an athletic complex in Roshkhar.

5. To the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificing Devotees about investigating the situation of the self-sacrificing devotees in Torbat-e Heydariyyeh.

6. To the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance about the independence of the Khaf finance office and the establishment of an agricultural bank in Roshkhar.

7. To the Ministry of Roads and Transport about widening and repairing the Torbat-e Heydariyyeh, Roshkhar, and Khaf-Taybad roads.

8. To the Ministry of Energy about the Darriz dam in Roshkhar.

In conclusion, the representative of Khaf requested that Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi visit the Khaf, Roshkhar, and Torbat-e Heydariyyeh regions.

Agenda

The Majles speaker then read the memos of the representatives to the executive officials of the country and the Majles went into session, first of all covering the first round of proposals on the employment bylaws of the national accounting office.

Rahmati, the spokesman of the committee on administrative and employment affairs, provided explanations about the proposal and said: This proposal was examined and discussed in numerous sessions in the presence of related experts and was ratified in the session on 11/7/68 [3 October 1989] with some revisions.

The single article states: From the date of the ratification of this law, employees of the national accounting office shall be subject in terms of employment to the employment bylaws of the Majles employees ratified on 24/9/66 [15 December 1987] and its addenda and later amendments. Figures in the salary chart of the Majles employees in Group 12 are amended as follows, without factoring coefficients.

A. Group 12, base 1, at 450.
B. The value of every base in Group 12, 35.

Note: The salary of directors, assistant directors, prosecutors, and advisers of the national accounting office are not included in the salary chart of the employment bylaws of the Majles employees, amounts of which will be determined upon the proposal of the administrative affairs council of the accounting office and with the approval of the joint committee on administrative and employment affairs, and will be payable after the imposition of the factors in Article 16 of the above-mentioned bylaws.

Next the representative of the government and spokesman of the related committee provided explanations. After that, the general points of the proposal were put to a vote and ratified.

Bill on Permission To Ratify the Charters of Transport Companies

The next item on the agenda for the first round of discussions was the bill to permit the ratification of the charters of transport companies. The spokesman for the committee on housing and urban development and roads and transport provided explanations in this regard.

The single article states: According to this law and on the basis of the law determining the sources, ratifications, amendments, or changes in the charter of companies and establishments affiliated with the ministries ratified on 22/9/66 [13 December 1987] by the Majles, the government is granted permission to take measures to ratify the charters of the following transport companies,

A. The Islamic Republic of Iran Transport Company,
B. The Islamic Republic of Iran International Transport Company,
D. The Refrigerated Road Transport Company.

Within the restrictions of the law on the establishment of the above-mentioned companies (ratified on 9/12/1361) [3 December 1982], in keeping with the law on commerce and obtaining the approval of the national administrative and employment affairs agency.

Then several representatives spoke in opposition and support of the bill, and the spokesman of the related committee and the representative of the government provided explanations. The general points of the bill were put to a vote and ratified.

At 10:30, the open session went into recess.

Paper Names Majles Candidates

NC0712094389 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Nov 89 p 4

[From the district office]

[Text] The headquarters for supervising the country's elections contacted our correspondent and announced the following names of candidates for representation in the Majles in the four voting areas of the country.

According to this report, the suitability of 21 volunteers in the four constituencies of Kashan, namely in Kuhdasht va Chegini, Kordkuy, Bandar-e Torkman, and

Kerman for the Majles midterm elections has been endorsed by the above headquarters and the list has been placed at the disposal of the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper as follows.

Kashan Constituency

1. Seyyed 'Ali Asghar Ebn-e Rasul, son of Seyyed Hasan;
2. Javad Osuli, son of 'Abolqasem;
3. Hamid Reza, son of 'Elm ol-Hoda;
4. 'Abbas Eqbali, son of Amrollah;
5. Mahmud Jam'ali, son of 'Abbas;
6. Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni, son of Hasan; and
7. Hasan Kheyran, son of Mohammad.

Kuhdasht va Chegini Constituency

1. 'Ali Asghar Esfandiyar-Pur, son of 'Azizollah;
2. 'Ali Emamirad, son of Kalb-e 'Ali;
3. Karimreza Pirya'i, son of Gholam;
4. 'Ali Teymuri, son of Mirza Qoli; and
5. 'Ali Shahrokhi, son of Roshan 'Ali.

Kordkuy and Torkman Constituency

1. Yusef Besanjideh, son of Tavaqdardi;
2. Mohammad Baqer Davudi, son of Mohammad;
3. Mohammad Reza Fakhr-e Rohani, son of Musa;
4. Mohammad Qasem-Kya, son of Qoli; and
5. Seyyed Mohsen Navabi, son of Hoseyn 'Ali.

Kerman Constituency

1. Asadollah Razavi Rashtipur, son of Mahmud;
2. Mehdi Salehi-Nezhad, son of Heydar;
3. Ahmad Ghazanfari-Moqaddam, son of Gholamreza; and
4. Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Mahdavi-Khanoki, son of Seyyed 'Ali.

More Names of Election Candidates Announced

NC0712134189 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpts] The headquarters for supervising the country's elections contacted our correspondent and announced the names of candidates for deputy in the Majles in six constituencies as follows: [passage omitted] Candidates from the Tehran constituency are:

1. Seyyed Mohammad Hasan Ayatollahi, son of Mohammad Kazem;
2. Mansureh Akhavan, daughter of Reza;
3. Seyyed Kazem Akrami, son of Seyyed Yusef;
4. Zabihollah Bakhshi, son of Mohammad 'Ali;
5. Robabeh Rafi'i-Tari, daughter of Farajollah;
6. Mariyam Za'farani-Behruzi, daughter of Moharram 'Ali;
7. 'Abolqasem Sarhaddizadeh, son of 'Ali Akbar;
8. Abu-'Ali Shari'ati Minasar, son of Mehdi;
9. Habibollah 'Askar-Owladi-Moslemin, son of Hoseyn;
10. 'Ali Hoseyn Farrokhi, son of Gholam 'Abbas;
11. Mostafa Qorbani-Moqaddam, son of Hasan;
12. Hoseyn Qalich Khan, son of Mohammad;
13. Hoseyn Kan'ani, son of Mahmud;
14. Mehr Arna Gorji, son of Ahmad;
15. Morteza Mojri, son of Asghar;
16. Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani, son of 'Abbas;
17. 'Alireza Mahjub, son of Gholamreza;
18. Hamid Reza Musa-Zadeh, son of 'Abdol Rahman;
19. Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashamipur, son of Seyyed Hasan;
20. Behzad Nabavi, son of Hasan;
21. Seyyed Morteza Navabi, son of Seyyed Ahmad; and
22. Gholam 'Ali Hadi-Pur, son of Zeyn ol-'Abedin.

Majles Budget Commission Chief on 5-Year Plan

LD0512212289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] The study of the draft bill on the first economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran will begin tomorrow at the plenary session of the Majles.

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr Alviri, the chairman of the Majles Budget and Plan Commission, while explaining ways and means of debating the plan, said: Because inflation and rising prices constitute the main difficulties of society at present, and in view of the fact that the rising level of liquidity coupled with falling levels of productivity are among the main causes of that economic phenomenon, according to the 5-year plan it is intended to reduce borrowing from the Central Bank to zero by the year 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1994]. The continuation of the trend narrowing the budget deficit will harness runaway inflation. Thus, it is intended that the rate of inflation fall from 28.5 percent at present to something like 10.5 percent.

He added: According to the 5-year plan it is also intended that the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] attain an annual growth rate of 8 percent. If we assume that the rate of population increase in the country averages 30.05 percent during the length of the 5-year plan, the per capita increase in GDP will be something like 5 percent. In other words, it can said that for every Iranian citizen five percent more goods and services will be supplied.

The chairman of the Majles Budget and Plan Commission also said that during the lifespan of the 5-year plan it is intended that 394,000 new jobs will be created annually. The creation of these new jobs will reduce the unemployment rate in the 5-year plan.

Continuing his interview, Mr Alviri added: [Begin Alviri recording] Another point incorporated in the 5-year plan, which in my view is important, is that there has been an increasing reliance on non-oil exports; that is, we have made a projection amounting to $18 billion to be funded through non-oil exports. However, if we were able to make a projection according to the previous trend, then non-oil exports will not have been more than $4 billion. [end recording]

Pakistan

Spokesman on Mujahidin POW Release, Indian Accord

BK0612140389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has expressed the hope that some Afghan mujahidin POW's [prisoners of war] in the custody of Kabul regime will be freed soon. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that at the time of the release of two Soviet POW's in Peshawar the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] leaders hoped that there would be a similar goodwill gesture. They expected from the Soviet side that they would help in the release of Afghan mujahidin POW's from the Kabul regime as had been done by the AIG. The spokesman said Pakistan played its role in the release of the Soviet POW's, (?considering) it as a humanitarian problem and believing that it would pave the way for a congenial atmosphere resulting in direct contacts between AIG leaders and the Soviet government.

About the agreement between Pakistan and India regarding nonattack on each other's nuclear installations, the spokesman said both countries have ratified it. However, instruments of ratification have not been exchanged as yet and talks are continuing between the officials of the two countries. The agreement is to be effected from the 1st of next month after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Soviet Media Commend Release of POW's

BK0612121689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Soviet media have commended Pakistan's efforts in securing the release of two Soviet prisoner's of war (?from the Afghan) mujahidin. Meanwhile, First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov met with the Pakistani ambassador in Moscow and conveyed the Soviet leadership's sincere thanks to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for this achievement.

Afghan Violations Protested; Allegation Rejected

BK0612143789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a protest with the Kabul regime over three violations of Pakistani airspace by Afghan planes which were reportedly committed on the 30th of last month and on the 1st of this month.

Pakistan has also rejected a Kabul regime protest in which it was alleged that Pakistan was involved in mujahidin attacks on Kabul. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and was told that the Kabul regime should refrain from unprovoked violations of Pakistan's airspace. It should also avoid making baseless allegations against neighboring countries.

Commentator Views Leadership Change in India

BK0412100389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Dec 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The change of the guard in India is time to take stock of the prevailing state of India-Pakistan relations and explore ways and means of further improving the bilateral relations. Over the last year there have been some positive and encouraging developments which have led to the creation of a positive climate between the two countries. The scope of trade between the two countries has brightened. The conclusion of an agreement between the two countries not to attack each other's nuclear facilities and installations was an important step in creating an atmosphere of confidence and trust between them. Another important development was that after a lapse of several years the joint Pakistan-India [Economic] Commission had its meeting. (?Overall), these steps were vitally instrumental in building confidence and trust between the two countries. Importantly, the two countries reached an agreement on the resolution of the dispute on Siachen Glacier area. However, there has been a lack of progress on the implementation of this agreement.

In his address to the joint session of Parliament yesterday, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan referred to this agreement saying that the progress in implementing the agreement reached between the two countries for resolution of the dispute on Siachen has not matched Pakistan's expectations. It is natural for Pakistan to expect from India to implement the understanding on this issue. India's massive arms build up is a great concern to Pakistan.

In her recent address to the nation, Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto had voiced her concern over India's arms build up. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in his address also said that India's massive arms build up, the launching of its intermediate [range surface-to-surface] Agni missile, and its acquisition of a nuclear submarine were causes of concern to Pakistan. Pakistan desires to improve its relations with India, but within the bounds of its national interests and needs. It stands committed in its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for exercising their inherent right of self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite. On the Wular Barrage, Pakistan's stand is that it be resolved amicably and in accordance with the legal obligations.

Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in her message sent to the new Indian prime minister has called for removal of the irritants which have vitiated Pakistan-India relations in the past so that they could move forward with confidence and trust toward normalization of relations. What the prime minister said is truly reflective of the Pakistani nation's point of view. The irritants which had soured relations between the two countries need to be removed for strengthening peace and tranquillity in the region. Pakistan has always worked for promotion of peace in the world and it has been consistently endeavoring to better its relations with India. It devolves on India to respond to Pakistan's sincere endeavors.

With the new Indian leadership at the helm of affairs, it is right to expect it to come out with a clear mind and bold initiatives to resolve the irritants that have stood in the way of complete normalization of the relations between the two neighbors.

Agreement Signed on Netherlands Aid 5 Dec

BK0612130789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] The Netherlands is to provide nearly $29 million in aid to Pakistan for its developmental programs next year. An agreement to this effect was signed between the economic affairs division secretary and the Netherlands ambassador in Islamabad yesterday.

Earlier, the annual consultations on the bilateral development aid program between Pakistan and the Netherlands continued for 2 days. The two sides reviewed 38 ongoing projects covering rural development, agriculture, water supply, environmental protection, and the small industries sectors.

Government Bans Importing Cars for Officials

OW0212013889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0049 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto disclosed Friday that her government has imposed a one-year ban on the import of new cars for officials as part of an austerity drive.

"My government wants austerity in every sphere and therefore it has been decided to ban the import of new cars for government officials" she said in a televised speech to mark the first anniversary of her government.

Ministry of Commerce spokesman told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the ban would be valid for the current fiscal year and has already been enforced by the government.

In 1987, former Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo directed that senior government officials should not use cars above 1,000 cubic centimeters and that they patronize Pakistani assembled Suzuki cars for official use.

A considerable number of cars are imported into Pakistan under a scheme permitting the two million Pakistanis living abroad to send cars as gifts to relatives back home. The government has been allocating foreign exchange for the import of cars only for the use of officials but their number has never been known.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Spokesman Blames Colombo for Violence

BK0712092589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 7 (AFP)—A Tamil group administering Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province has blamed Colombo for renewed violence in the island's tamil areas vacated by Indian troops. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) added that it would have no option but to resist militarily if Sri Lankan troops and security forces continued attacking its armed militants.

"The Sri Lankan Government is seeking a military solution to the problems in the northeast," said an EPRLF spokesman known by his nom de guerre Shanthan, now here to lobby with leaders of the new Indian Government. "In these circumstances, there is no way but to resist," he said late Wednesday, hours before Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne flew here for high-level bilateral discussions.

Dozens, and possibly hundreds, have died in recent clashes between Sri Lankan security forces and members of the so-called Tamil National Army (TNA), which is controlled by the EPRLF and which Colombo says is an illegal force.

Though fighting has been reported from several areas, the bulk of the casualties have been reported from Amparai and Batticaloa Districts on the east coast vacated by Indian troops late October and November.

The spokesman accused Colombo of trying to "destroy" the EPRLF and other Tamil groups with the help of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant rebel group now holding peace talks with the island government.

He urged India to prevail upon Sri Lanka to honour its committments in line with a September 18 accord under which New Delhi has promised to do its best to withdraw its soldiers from the island by December 31.

The spokesman said Sri Lanka had failed to bring the LTTE into a proposed peace committee, set up a provincial police force for the Tamil northeast, and devolve powers to the EPRLF-controlled northeastern regional government.

Mr. Shanthan, who is based in London, claimed the TNA had some 30,000 members who would continue resisting Sri Lankan troops and security forces "for as long as 10 years if necessary."

Colombo has accused India of propping up and arming the TNA, an accusation denied by New Delhi. The TNA has been blamed for several attacks on police and army personnel in Tamil areas in recent weeks.

India has lost more than 1,000 soldiers in its attempt to disarm the LTTE, the only Tamil group which has rejected a 1987 bilateral accord under which New Delhi deployed its troops in Sri Lanka. India still has an estimated 30,000 soldiers in the island's northeast.

India's New Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has said he wants Indian soldiers out of Sri Lanka as early as possible.

IPKF Denounced for Training, Arming Tamil 'Army'

BK0412111189 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 30 Nov 89 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, last week, openly charged the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] with training and arming the so-called Tamil National Army [TNA]; and Mr. Varadaraja Perumal, Chief Minister of the North-East Provincial Council, with sabotaging the Security Co-ordinating Group set up under the September 18 agreement with India.

The Foreign Minister is not one to rush to conclusions. His relations with Indian leaders have been cordial. The latter he regards as sincere: the IPKF, to put it mildly, as not acting correctly.

Mr. Wijeratne paid tribute to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and to his Indian counterpart, Mr. Narasimha Rao. They and other ministers, he said, were sincere.

But could there be lesser elements engaged in a conspiracy to set up a Mafia, some sort of Fifth Column that might stage some other manoeuvre to delay the Indian withdrawal?

The Tamil National Army is an unlawful assembly. An armed force set up in defiance of the State.

If Mr. Perumal's advisers think that Provincial administrators can set up their separate armies, they have probably not got the constitution right.

Earlier, Deputy Speaker Gamini Fonseka, who is renowned in this country for efforts to bring about communal harmony, castigated Mr. Perumal with playing a collusive role in the tensions that have gripped the East.

Mr. Wijeratne has pointed out that Mr. Perumal had assured him that the Citizen's Volunteer Force, as Mr. Wijeratne proposed, would be absorbed into the forces.

Meanwhile, the CVF [Citizens Volunteer Force—FBIS] was to be kept in camps. Instead, they had let themselves loose and were reported to be brandishing modern weapons, most of which are believed to be of Indian origin.

Sufficient is already known: sufficient has already been said to make it imperative for the Indian authorities to conduct an immediate inquiry into the clandestine role of the IPKF in training and arming one set of militants instead of disarming all the militants.

What warranty have they to be switching to the opposite role of building up a rebel force? Mr. Perumal could bring on himself very serious consequences if he appears to support an insurgency against the government. He could be aligning himself with an armed legion which, itself, is a challenge to lawfully constituted authority.

Many, today, regard the CVF and the TNA as offensive set-ups. After their recent show of force, there can be no doubt about that. T he sooner they are disbanded the better for all concerned—the Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese.

Mature observers have hinted that violence, sparked off Amparai, is probably intended to cause a backlash in other parts of the country, and so put new distractions on the nation's forces.

The forces were once below the strength required to cope with terrorism, it was for the very reason that terrorism was - then - not a force to be seriously reckoned with. Are there elements, foreign or local which having seen the pressure taken off the forces in the south and the success scored by our security forces against the JVP, now seeking to reinforce their forces against the State?

Mr. Perumal is plainly treading on dangerous ground. The heroics of a rabble in arms is not going to earn the respect of the Tamils of this country, let alone frighten lawfully-constituted authority in the land. How truly has it been said that the lesson of history is that some people, at least, learn nothing from history.

Do the IPKF and the TNA still lack the capacity to assess current events and changes in the wind?